

TENNESSEE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT -- CALENDAR YEAR 2019

Purpose and Composition

The Tennessee Archaeological Advisory Council (TAAC) was established by the General Assembly (T.C.A. 11-6-103). The primary duties of the council are to advise the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and the State Archaeologist and Director of the Division of Archaeology (TDOA) on all matters of policy relating to the activities of the Division and to the employment of professional personnel.

Appointed by the governor to overlapping five-year terms, the eleven council members serve as the policy advisory board for the Division of Archaeology. The council consists of: (1) five anthropologists representing the University of Tennessee, the University of Memphis, Vanderbilt University, Middle Tennessee State University, and East Tennessee State University, respectively; (2) one representative from the Tennessee Historical Commission; (3) one representative from a recognized archaeological association in Tennessee; (4) three members of Native American descent and representative of the Native American community in Tennessee; and (5) one member from the public at large.

Council Membership (as of December 31, 2019)

The current council members reflect the diversity encouraged on state boards including: one public/citizen member, four members of a racial minority, and four women.

Member	Representing	Appointed	Expiration
Dr. Kevin E. Smith, Chair	Middle Tennessee State University	08-22-17	06-30-22
Dr. David Dye, Vice-Chair	University of Memphis	07-01-15	06-30-20
Dr. Jan Simek	University of Tennessee	07-19-19	06-30-23
Dr. Chris Widga	East Tennessee State University	06-24-19	06-30-21
Dr. Betsey Robinson	Vanderbilt University	06-24-19	06-30-22
Mr. Toye Heape	Tennessee Historical Commission	12-25-17	12-31-22
Ms. Georgia Dennis	Archaeological Associations	01-25-17	12-31-22
Mr. Jeremy Kaunisto	Native American	01-08-18	06-30-22
Dr. Rex Weeks	Native American	07-01-15	06-30-20
Ms. Cindy Yahola	Native American	08-21-18	06-30-23
Ms. Lauren Webb	Public-at-Large	07-01-18	06-30-23

The Archaeological Advisory Council generates no revenue for the Division of Archaeology operations budget. Expenses of the council are from state appropriations as a line item for travel reimbursement to council meetings at current state rates.

Public notice of the TAAC meetings are posted on the TDEC Sunshine Notice web site <https://www.tn.gov/environment/about-tdec/boards-and-commissions/board-tennessee-archaeological-advisory-council.html>. All council meetings are audio-recorded and tape archives are maintained at the TDOA office where they are available for public inspection.

Council Meeting – Calendar Year 2019

The Archaeological Advisory Council held its annual meeting on Friday, January 18, 2019 as part of the Current Research in Tennessee Archaeology (CRITA) program in the James Union Building at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro.

Members Present: Dr. Jeff Chapman, Dr. Kevin Smith, Ms. Georgia Dennis, Dr. David Dye, Mr. Jeremy Kaunisto, Dr. Jay Franklin, Ms. Cindy Yahola, and Mr. Toye Heape.

Agenda:

- Individual Reports by Council Members
- Report on 2018 TDOA activities by State Archaeologist Michael Moore

Report on 2019 Division Activities and Accomplishments

2019 DIVISION PERSONNEL

Ms. Sarah Eckhardt resigned from state service in August 2019 to take a job in California.

Ms. Glendon Swann, our Administrative Secretary, retired from state service in September 2019. This position was reclassified into a new Archaeologist 2 position.

Ms. Jennifer Pietarila-Braun was hired (into the position vacated by Ms. Eckhardt) as our newly created Collections Manager in November 2019. She abruptly left without notice after several weeks, and provided no reason other than her leaving was a personal decision that had nothing to do with her Division job duties or staff interactions. There was not enough time remaining in the 2019 calendar year to repost this position, so it will be filled in 2020.

Ms. Lacey Fleming was hired into our brand new Archaeologist 2 position in December 2019 (reclassified from the Administrative Secretary position). She will begin state service on January 21, 2020.

FY19-20 DIVISION BUDGET

The FY20 budget spreadsheet presents expenditures and revenue through November 2019. As with past years, the current budget is a continuation of the previous year's budget.

We completed two federal grant contracts (60% federal-40% state match) in 2019 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)

We currently have three federal grant contracts (60% federal-40% state match) through the Tennessee Historical Commission (contract cycle October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020):

- Review and Compliance position (\$83,333 total)
- Old Stone Fort State Archaeological Park Survey (\$15,500 total)
- Montgomery Bell State Park CCC Camp Evaluation (\$12,500 total)

2019 GENERAL DIVISION ACTIVITY

TDOA Web Page (Sarah Eckhardt, Aaron Deter-Wolf, Paige Silcox)

- <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/arch-archaeology.html>
- Sarah was the staff person responsible for web page presentation, content, and changes as needed until she left state service in August. Aaron and Paige have stepped up to assume this role.

TDOA Facebook Page (Aaron Deter-Wolf, Paige Silcox, Sarah Eckhardt)

- <https://www.facebook.com/TNArchaeology>
- People following our page increased to 2623 as of December 31, 2019;
- Average post reached around 430, peaking at 1977;
- Average page views were around 26 per day, peaking in April with 104 in a single day.

Fee-Based Tours

- The Division of Archaeology conducted ten fee-based tours of state-owned archaeological sites/areas over the 2018-19 performance cycle (October 2018 through September 2019). The tour price was \$10 per person (with kids under 12 free);
- The ten tours comprised two Roper's Knob tours by Ben Nance/Sarah Eckhardt; three Mound Bottom tours by Aaron Deter-Wolf; two Link Farm tours by Bill Lawrence; two Reelfoot Lake tours by Bill Lawrence; one Sellars Farm tour by Sarah Eckhardt.

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

- Aaron (and Sarah until she left state service) digitized 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 2019 include Anderson through Hamblen, as well as Wilson;

Site Files (Paige Silcox and Satin Platt)

- 309 new sites were added to the site files;
- Total statewide database now 26,965 sites, and 1410 survey areas;
- 1571 site forms added to Division digital files;
- 249 survey reports added to statewide report database;
- 561 reports added to Division digital files;
- 1146 responses to external customer inquiries by email/phone;
- 290 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;
- Testing and extensive discussion re: web application issues and potential alternative solutions;
- Ongoing discussions with STS/TDEC re: internet/server access issues
- Created STS Division overview for data incorporation
- Discussions with other state file curators;
- Attended TDEC GIS User Group meetings;
- Attended TnGIC regional forum;
- Attended ESRI training classes for ArcGIS Pro;
- Discussions with TDEC Strategic Initiatives re: ArcGIS Online tools for site record submission/remote access;
- Continued discussions with TVA re: digitizing archived records;
- Coordinated limited data sharing with FTC, NPS, Davidson County Planning.

Federal Programs/SHPO (Jennifer Barnett)

- Reviewed 1046 formal review responses;

State Programs (Dan Brock)

- Reviewed 409 state projects;
- 94 permits issued for archaeological work on state lands;
- 39 artifact and collection transfers;
- 9 accession numbers assigned.

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 66 requests for information and technical assistance;
- While the THC created a new position to handle historic period cemeteries, the impact to Division responses has yet to be evaluated.

State Parks Assistance (Bill Lawrence)

- Provided technical assistance to 14 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

- Interviewed for “A Life in Ruins” archaeology podcast;
- Co-designed educational booth and programming for Nashville TedX360 event;
- Provided public lectures to various education and civic/historical organizations including Bellevue Historical Society, Friends of Brentwood Library, and Brentwood Library staff.

Sarah Eckhardt

- Co-organized the Tennessee Council for Professional Archaeology (TCPA) Archaeology Day at Bells Bend Park.
- Served as Board Member for TCPA;
- Co-designed educational booth and programming for Nashville TedX360 event.

Bill Lawrence

- Provided program for Archaeofest at Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Park;
- Provided public programs including Paris Elementary School, and Discovery Park of America;
- Provided program for Jr. Rangers at Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Park.

Mike Moore

- Provided lecture to Vanderbilt Anthropology class;
- Provided lecture to University of the South (Sewanee) Environmental Stewardship class;
- Presented public lectures to Leadership Brentwood, Belmont Mansion, Rutherford County Archaeological Society, and Friends of Brentwood Library;
- Continued to co-organize the Current Research in Tennessee Archaeology (CRITA) event;
- Continued to provide technical assistance to the Friends of Aaittifama for Metro Nashville Aaittifama 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 several presentations to Daughters of the American Revolution;
- Provided program for Scales Elementary School.

Satin Platt

- Co-presented a presentation at Tennessee Women in Science, Technology, and Research event;
- Co-provided a program about Careers in Archaeology and Archaeological activity at Glencliff High School;
- Volunteer at TCPA Archaeology Day at Bell's Bend.

Paige Silcox

- Organized the TCPA Archaeology Day at Bell's Bend, and prepared SAA Public Education Award nomination form;
- TCPA board member, Facebook/Instagram page administrator, and social media chair;
- Participated in Young Enterprising Women mentoring forum;
- Ran the Tennessee Archaeology booth at International Archaeology Day (Parthenon);
- Interviewed by Father Ryan student for Careers in Archaeology.
- Co-presented a presentation at Tennessee Women in Science, Technology, and Research event;

- Co-provided a program about Careers in Archaeology and Archaeological activity at Glenclyff High School;

Division Personnel Research and Publication

Dan Brock

- Continued research and analysis of the CCC camp at Montgomery Bell State Park;
- Co-authored book chapter in Archaeological Adaptation: Case Studies of Cultural Transformation from the Southeast and Caribbean published by the University of Tennessee Press;
- Provided review of proposed article for *Historical Archaeology* journal.

Aaron Deter-Wolf

- Co-authored two presentations at the Society for American Archaeology annual meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico;
- Presented invited paper at the Southeastern Archaeological Conference in Jackson Mississippi;
- Co-edited The Cumberland River Archaic of Tennessee book published by the University Press of Florida, and also contributed seven chapters;
- Provided chapter in Shaman, Priest, Practice, Belief book published by the University of Alabama Press;
- Co-authored an article published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science Reports*;
- Co-authored a research poster for the Society of Ethnobiology conference in Vancouver, BC;
- Provided review for *Journal of Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences*;
- Co-conducted archaeological survey at Burgess Falls State Park.

Sarah Eckhardt

- Co-conducted archaeological survey at Burgess Falls State Park;
- Continued video interviews with former Division employees as part of 50th TDOA anniversary project;

Bill Lawrence

- Prepared plans for 2020 Midsouth Conference at Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Park;

Mike Moore

- Co-authored presentation at the Society for American Archaeology annual meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico;
- Authored article for the *Tennessee Conservationist* magazine;
- 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;
- Conducted technical assistance/investigations at state-owned Alex Haley Home, Carter House State Historic Site, Tipton-Haynes, Marble Springs, Cragfont, state-owned tract next to Carnton, Burra Burra Mine, Camp Blount, Stonecipher-Kelly House, Carter House (Franklin) and Red Clay;

Satin Platt

- Co-authored presentation at the 2019 Current Research in Tennessee Archaeology event.

Paige Silcox

- Co-authored presentation at the 2019 Current Research in Tennessee Archaeology event.
- Continued video interviews with former Division employees as part of 50th TDOA anniversary project.

Division Projects

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;
- Progress continues toward completion of the 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;

Archaeological Survey at Burgess Falls State Park

- The Division obtained a THC grant to evaluate known and potential archaeological resources at Burgess Falls State Park along Falling Water River and Cane Creek;
- This effort included revisits and assessments of known archaeological sites, examinations of accessible areas believed likely to contain archaeological materials, and investigations of locations identified in background research and by parks staff as containing potential historical resources. No new sites were recorded as a result of this project;
- None of the investigated prehistoric or historic archaeological resources assessed during this project exhibited evidence of intact deposits or archaeological integrity;
- Several attempts to visit the hydroelectric power house by kayak failed due to high water and strong currents;
- The location of a possible sawmill or gristmill was examined, but additional work deemed necessary to adequately evaluate potential features at that location.

Division NAGPRA Cases

EBCI Claim for Ft. Loudoun, 40MRI

- The Notice of Inventory Completion (NIC) was finalized and published in the Federal Register;
- Representatives from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) picked up all skeletal remains and associated artifacts from the Division

- Details regarding subsequent reburial are unknown.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Claim for David Davis Farm, 40HA301

- The Notice of Inventory Completion (NIC) was finalized and published in the Federal Register;
- All human skeletal remains and associated burial objects are ready to be reburied on Williams Island in Chattanooga;
- Currently assessing a proper location for reburial. Also, burial protocol details remain to be worked out with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Chickasaw Nation Claims from 2015 Inquiry for Information

- The Chickasaw Nation initiated a formal claim for four (40WM51, 40RD77, 40WM33, and 40WM5) of ten sites submitted in the October 2015 inquiry of information. The Chickasaw Nation later also formally claimed, in a separate letter, the remaining six sites (40MD1, 40HR35, 40TP1, 40OB6, 40LN16, and 40PY207) from the original October 2015 inquiry.
- As noted in previous TAAC reports, assessments of these 10 sites has taken (and will continue to take) a substantial amount of time due to the lack of dedicated Division funding and staff. In addition, the lack of a staff bioarchaeologist causes the Division to currently rely on the expertise of staff and students at MTSU;
- The Division is pleased to report that substantial progress was made in 2019 toward completion of these NAGPRA claims:
- A Notice of Inventory Completion (NIC) was finalized and published in the Federal Register for sites 40WM51, 40RD77, and 40WM5. All human skeletal remains and associated burial objects from sites 40WM51, 40RD77, and 40WM5 were picked up from the Division by Chickasaw Nation representatives and subsequently reburied in Williamson County;
- The NAGPRA inventory report for site 40WM33 needed to be revised so a draft NIC was not prepared. A completion date for the revised inventory report is unknown at this time;
- Skeletal analysis for site 40OB6 was discontinued due to the substantially jumbled nature of the assemblage. The NAGPRA inventory report is underway but has yet to be completed, with a completion date unknown at this time;
- The initial associated artifact inventory for 40MD1 has been completed but not yet finalized. The 40MD1 skeletal analysis is underway at MTSU, but a completion date is unknown. The NAGPRA inventory report has not yet been initiated, and a completion date is unknown at this time;
- Skeletal analysis for sites 40LN16 and 40PY207 has been initiated at Middle Tennessee State University. A completion date for this analysis, as well as the NAGPRA inventory report, is unknown at this time;
- Assessments of sites 40HR35 and 40TP1 have yet to begin.

Current Research in Tennessee Archaeology (CRITA), Annual Meeting

Since 1989, the Archaeological Advisory Council has served as a co-sponsor of the annual meeting on Current Research in Tennessee Archaeology (generally scheduled at the end of

January) with the Tennessee Division of Archaeology and MTSU Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Plans to establish the meeting were initiated by the Council in 1988 with the idea of promoting "communications among the archaeologists working in the state" (Jefferson Chapman, Letter to Colleagues, November 7, 1988). The first meeting was held on January 14, 1989 in Garland Hall at Vanderbilt University. A few years later the meeting moved to the Ed Jones Auditorium on the Ellington Agricultural campus until 2017 when the CRITA event was relocated to Montgomery Bell State Park. CRITA celebrated its 30th anniversary meeting in 2018, and has become a showcase event in the state with sustained support from both the professional archaeological community and the interested public. By holding the council meeting in conjunction with this annual program of Tennessee archaeology, the council has received greater feedback from the council constituency and enhanced the ability of council members to appropriately discuss issues and provide advice to the TDEC Commissioner and State Archaeologist.

For more information, please contact:

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