



# PARC NEWSLETTER

JANUARY, 2020

## MEMBER UPDATE

The following provides an update on PARC and the activities surrounding our organization and the properties we own.

### THE FINGERHUT PROPERTY

With the passing of our tenant, Tony Cholet in July 2017, some of PARC's efforts have been focused on trying to upgrade the Tony Cholet House. We named this facility in honor of Tony and his contributions to PARC. There are no plans to rent the property as a residence, instead we have started some minor renovations so that it may be used for storage and as added lab space. New rugs were donated by Linda Krieg for two of the rooms and are greatly appreciated. The floor, walls, and ceiling of the unneeded shower stall in the bathroom were removed and will be replaced to create a small storage closet. During the last couple of summer field seasons, Professor Mary Vermilion of St. Louis University (SLU) has used Tony's house for storing field equipment while conducting excavations on the nearby Fingerhut Tract as part of her SLU archaeological field course. The house is also serving as a staging area for materials and notes that are being transferred to the Illinois State Museum (ISM) resulting from ongoing excavations at

Cahokia as part of PARC's commitment to the Cahokia Mounds Museum Society's (CMMS) volunteer summer field program.

Since purchasing the Fingerhut property in 1997, the main house (the Fingerhut House) has been used to process materials coming in from the field excavations being conducted at Cahokia Mounds for the CMMS volunteer program, as well as ongoing excavations by Washington University PhD students, Caitlin Rankin and Grant Stauffer, as part of their dissertation field research at Cahokia Mounds. Board member Larry Kinsella has also been processing flotation samples collected during excavations by various researchers.

Our primary focus in the upcoming year will be to clean and reorganize the collections, notes, and other materials within the Fingerhut House so that they can be transferred to the Illinois State Museum. We want to thank members of the Cahokia Archaeological Society who wash artifacts before most meetings each month. All the artifactual materials to date have been inventoried. Once bags of artifacts are inventoried, diagnostic artifacts such as projectile points, rim sherds, decorated ceramics and other unique artifacts are then

pulled and boxed separately. The contents of each box are tabulated and the boxes are labeled. The boxes are placed in large plastic bags and once at the ISM, they are set aside for 6 months to kill any insects before being integrated in with the rest of the ISM collections. We want to especially thank Sedona Kolmer, Joy Mehrmann, and Madison Bouse for sorting and inventorying artifacts, organizing notes, and boxing materials so they can be transferred to the ISM.

Thanks also to Don Milkert, one of our volunteers, who has taken over keeping the property mowed and cleaning out the gutters. He also helps with feeding Tony's four remaining cats. Larry Kinsella has also helped with keeping the property maintained, which is very much appreciated.

Late this fall the Fingerhut property suffered a waterline break, resulting in very unexpected and large water and sewer bills. We have turned off the water in both houses and are working to locate the break that appears to be between the Fingerhut house and Tony's house. Unlike an earlier break in which the water appeared on the ground surface, we can see no visual evidence of where this break is. We, however, suspect it is in the vicinity of Tony's house. A Facebook fundraiser page has been set up (<https://www.facebook.com/donate/487972601912028/10156665970567461/>) to accept donations to help offset the cost of repairs to the waterline. If you are not on Facebook but would like to donate to this specific need, we accept checks made out to PARC and sent to PO Box 413, Columbia, IL 62336.

## **ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY EXCAVATIONS**

For the ninth year, Dr. Mary Vermilion from St. Louis University (SLU) continued investigations on the Fingerhut Tract behind PARC's Fingerhut house with a SLU archaeological field school. The focus has been and continues to be on the anomalies identified from a resistivity survey conducted by Dr. Michael Hargrave and more recently by Dr. Jarrod Burks of the Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc. Most of the anomalies thought to have been Mississippian structures have been partially identified within the survey area.

## **FUNDRAISING EFFORTS**

### **14TH ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT**

On April 6, 2019, in conjunction with the Cahokia Mounds Museum Society (CMMS), PARC held their fourteenth annual trivia night and silent auction. This is our main fundraiser and was held at the Cahokia Mounds Interpretive Center.



Around 120 people attended. As in past years, board member Bill Iseminger was our MC for the evening and asked 8 rounds of very challenging but interesting questions. John Kelly, Cricket Kelly, and Lori Belknap served as judges.

We netted about \$4000, which was split between PARC and the Cahokia Mounds Museum Society. An ambitious goal will be to increase this amount for 2020. We would like to thank everyone for all their hard work, for donating silent auction items, and for attending the event.

**SAVE THE DATE:** This year we will be holding Trivia Night on Saturday, April 4th. For those wishing to register for Trivia Night and to donate items for the silent auction please contact Alie Morgan, Executive Director of the CMMS ([museumsociety@cahokiamounds.org](mailto:museumsociety@cahokiamounds.org) or 618-344-7316)

We will send out a reminder notice and a call for silent auction items as the date nears.

**THANKS** to the efforts of Lori Belknap who organized two other fundraisers during the course of the year. The first one in February and again in August was the Steins for Support Fundraisers sponsored by Urban Chestnut at their Midtown Brewery and Biergarten on Washington Avenue in St. Louis. Thanks to all of those that came and enjoyed their wonderful beer and food!

The second was Painting With A Twist held in Shiloh, Illinois, in October. Thank you to the numerous budding artists that turned out and raised \$250. Artists Bill and Gloria Iseminger donated their beautiful works of art for hanging in the Fingerhut House.

Funds were also raised at Archaeology Day in August with the book sales proceeds split with the Cahokia Archaeological Society (CAS). Thanks to Gloria Iseminger, Sue Barlow, Lila Vick, and Greg Paulus with the sales. Additional thanks to Judy Horton, Carol Baluka, and Dr. Gayle Fritz with the washing at Archaeology Day.

We can also raise funds a number of ways through Facebook. The Giving Tuesday Facebook fundraiser held in November provided us over \$400. Several members have also created birthday fundraisers for PARC on Facebook and we appreciate their efforts. And, a reminder for those of you who order items from Amazon: every item available for purchase on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) is also available on AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)) at the same price. If you designate PARC as your charity, 0.5% of your purchase price will be donated to PARC at no cost to you. But remember you must order on [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and NOT [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) for PARC to get this benefit. PARC receive these funds on a quarterly basis. Every penny helps.

## **UPDATE ON THE MOUND PRESERVATION EFFORTS**

This past August, Congressmen Bost (R-Illinois 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District) and Clay (D-Missouri's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District) along with Senators Durbin (Illinois) and Blunt (Missouri) introduced legislation for the creation of "The Cahokia Mounds and Mississippian Culture National Historic Park" centered on Cahokia Mounds State Historic site and the surrounding National Historic Landmark boundaries (read the bill here: <http://bit.ly/32yrQZA>). This National Historic Park would also include the Emerald mound complex near Lebanon, Illinois, the Pulcher mound complex near Dupou, Illinois, and the Sugar Loaf mound in St. Louis owned by the Osage Nation. Additional mound groups such as East St. Louis, St. Louis, and Mitchell may eventually be included. Additional information can also be found on

the Heartlands Conservancy website: <https://www.heartlandsconservancy.org/mounds.php>.

PARC continues to work with the Archaeological Conservancy in maintaining nearly two dozen properties in the center of the ancient town of East St. Louis. Many of these properties were initially purchased by PARC and now all are owned by the Archaeological Conservancy. Ozelle Williams has helped immensely with the mowing efforts over the course of this past year.

### **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to those who helped with various monetary donations over the past year. We would like to especially thank Greg and Sharee Paulus for their monthly donations and for the shelving units that have been especially useful.

We want to thank Jamie Kelly who redesigned our website (<http://www.powellarchaeology.org>). We are pleased with his efforts and are also very appreciative of him helping us with this. He has turned it over to us and it is still somewhat of a work in progress, but another goal for this year is to add content and keep it updated.

### **CONGRATULATIONS!!**

Our newest board member, Lori Belknap, after serving as the CMMS Executive Director, was hired by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) in August of this year to replace Mark Esarey as the Site Superintendent for Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site. CONGRATULATIONS!

Lori's position as the CMMS Executive Director was filled by Alice Morgan! CONGRATULATIONS Alie!!!

### **HAPPY RETIREMENT!**

After 48+ years at Cahokia Mounds, a well deserved offer of CONGRATULATIONS to board member Bill Iseminger on his retirement as Assistant Site Manager, etc! Bill will of course be involved with Cahokia as a "volunteer" and PARC for the foreseeable future!



### **IN MEMORIAM DR. ERNIE SCHUSKY**

We would like to pass on PARC's condolences to Mary Sue Schusky, the wife of Ernie and their family. Dr. Schusky passed away in December.

<https://www.barrywilsonfuneralhome.com/obituary/ernest-schusky>

Ernie was a well known Cultural Anthropologist and retired member of the Department of Anthropology at SIUE. Over the years he and his wife made numerous contributions to PARC and our preservation efforts. We will miss you Ernie!