



PARC NEWSLETTER

January, 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR

As for the previous 2 years, PARC was able to have very limited in-person fundraising events in 2022. We did however have 2 live/virtual auctions in conjunction with the Cahokia Mounds Museum Society (CMMS) held March 25-April 10, 2022. These turned out to be successful and \$3101 was raised and split between PARC and the CMMS. We thank everyone who donated items to be auctioned and those who participated. We are happy to announce that we will resume our IN-PERSON Trivia Night and Silent Auction event. It will be held May 13, 2023 from 7-10 pm (doors open at 6:00 for Silent Auction and book sales) at the First United Presbyterian Church located at 201 E. Church Street, Collinsville, IL. Tables of 10 will be \$150 and individuals will be \$15.00. To reserve a table or spot please call (618) 344-7316 or email museumociety@cahokiamounds.org. If you have any items to donate to the Silent Auction, please contact Cricket Kelly (618-550-9312) or Lori Belknap (618-346-5164).

Excavations at the Cahokia Mounds State Historic site are still suspended with no resumption date known. However, Dr. Mary Vermilion of St. Louis University held a small excavation on the PARC property behind the Fingerhut House in June. Dr. Vermilion has had small field schools from SLU here for 11 years, which have focused on houses that are part of an early Mississippian residential area of Cahokia. Short articles on Dr. Vermilion's investigations have appeared in the *Cahokian* magazine, *Illinois Archaeology* journal, and *Illinois Antiquity quarterly*.

In June of 2022, the Fingerhut House sustained damage from a large tree limb that fell during a severe storm. The edge of the roof and gutter on the northwest side were damaged and an upstairs window was broken. PARC members were able to cut up and remove the limb and repair the window. We were able to get the roof and gutter repaired by a roofer. Thankfully no interior house

damage was sustained. Insurance covered the repair costs, except for the \$500 deductible. We are now looking for a tree trimmer to come and remove a limb that still hangs over the house to prevent another such occurrence.

Powell Archaeological Research Center (PARC) was nominated for and was awarded on Sept. 10, 2022 the **Illinois Archaeology Public Service Award** at the annual meeting of the Illinois Archaeological Survey meeting in Springfield. This award was given in



recognition of PARC's important contributions to Illinois archaeology to promote, protect, and preserve cultural resources. For over 25 years, PARC has

tirelessly raised awareness and funds for the preservation of sites in the region and has worked closely with the Archaeological Conservancy to acquire dozens of threatened parcels including partial mounds. As part of its work, PARC has been active in fostering relationships with Native American Tribal members and local community members. It has also assisted with research in the American Bottom region as well as provided logistical and interpretive support to the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site. It is among the numerous organizations that have worked towards advocating a unit of the National Park Service status for the Cahokia Mounds site and other sites in the region.

President Kathleen Stahlman (center) and board of director's members Lori Belknap, John Kelly, Cricket Kelly, and Bill Iseminger, pictured here, were present to receive this honor.



As most of you may be aware, the Cahokia Mounds Interpretive Center has been closed to visitors since last April. A new roof has been installed. But, it remains closed as now a new HVAC system will be installed, as well as new electrical, lighting, security and fire suppression systems, new ceilings in the lobby and theater, and more. Plans are also in the works for some of the exhibits to be updated. It is anticipated that the Center will be closed for another year. However, the grounds remain open for visitors from dawn to dusk. The new augmented reality app can be purchased for phones and tablets that gives the visitor tours of the Monks Mound and Grand Plaza areas and an insight to how the site may have looked when it was inhabited 700-900 years ago. The equinox and solstice

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sunrises continue to be observed at Woodhenge on the Sundays closest to the actual equinox or solstice. Bill Iseminger is still leading those observances. Other events such as Kids Day and Archaeology Day are on hold until the Interpretive Center reopens. Indian Market Days are being held a couple times of year at the Collinsville, IL Convention Center. The next one is scheduled for June 3-4, 2023. Spring and Fall Nature/Culture Hikes are still given as well as seasonal tours and outreach presentations by site staff and volunteers.

The PARC Membership Renewal form is enclosed. Memberships are still our primary way of raising funds to continue our mission and to maintain the Fingerhut House.

Our Mission Related Activities are on-going. We continue to help the Archaeological Conservancy maintain the East St. Louis and Cahokia Mounds properties by keeping them mowed and clear of trash.

We also continue our relationship with the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies at Washington University. Students periodically volunteer their time to help with the cleanup of the East St. Louis properties, although because of the pandemic they have had to cut back on some of those activities. And, of course, we are always on the lookout for opportunities to preserve more areas of the East St. Louis site when properties become available. We thank you in advance for your continued support and invite you to become a member if you are not one already or have let your membership lapse.



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