

documented for the traditional "Late Archaic", or the time after 3000 BC. The phenomena known as Delmarva Adena spans older, traditional breaks between the Early Woodland and Middle Woodland periods. In this regard, employing traditional cultural historical periods as units of analysis at Hickory Bluff could mask some interesting patterning in the deposits, and make inter-site and inter-regional comparisons difficult.

## CONCLUSION

The biggest challenge that I see in taking this project forward is integrating all of the specialized analyses and rethinking interpretations with multiple data sets. For example, the spatial analysis of Fitzell and Knepper would benefit from the use of ceramic cross-mending and vessel lot data produced by Robertson, Shields and Stevens. Bupp's consideration of site distributions and relationships within the greater St Jones River Basin might be refined by the types of attributes and caveats presented in Fitzell and Egghart's evaluation of site types. Petraglia and Meyer rightly point out the complex and variable processes related to the formation, use, and reuse of features, cautioning against stock interpretations, while Cunningham and Egghart use a relatively small data set to overturn the proffered interpretation of literally thousands of pit features spanning multiple sites and time periods. Individual papers champion geomorphic, ecological, and symbolic reasons for the site to be located where it is. None of these are not fatal flaws; it is clear that Hickory Bluff is a work in progress, and that specialists are just now developing information that is ready to be shared with their colleagues, and eventually integrated.

This is the typical, bittersweet blessing/curse of cultural resource management archaeology - motivation, funds, and resources to mount exciting multidimensional projects involving specialists from a variety of disciplines, and difficulties pulling it all together in order to make the whole greater than the sum of the parts. It is likewise difficult for any archaeologist, CRM-based or otherwise, to have control over the myriad of published and unpublished data and thoughts on methodology, a particular topic or time period. The circle of CRM archaeologists, agency archaeologists, technical specialists, Native Americans, and all others with a stake in archaeology needs to be closed by including academics and regional specialists. All will benefit.

The Hickory Bluff project is a great example of what CRM archaeology can be when the people involved have the will to make it more than a compliance effort, or a 9-5 job. The law notwithstanding, everything in CRM is subject to negotiation, from what happens in the local municipality through county, state, and federal levels. Law and procedures have enough built-in "wiggle-room" to allow project-specific negotiations to occur; and both good and bad things can result. Hickory Bluff is an example of how good outcomes can be.

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Archaeology at Hickory Bluff - a discussion  
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Daniel R. Griffith

From my perspective as a participant in and observer of Delaware archeology for a long time - 33 years since my first field crew days, I can honestly state the Hickory Bluff archaeology was and is a watershed experience in Delaware archaeology. By watershed experience, I mean an experience that has and will cause a fundamental shift in the way we approach archaeology in Delaware. It has made us think in different ways and effected all participants in one way or another - we are changing and archaeology in Delaware is changing. It is not business as usual and far from the times when data recovery excavations were an insulated, academic exercise to satisfy narrow interests in compliance with federal laws and standards. It has become an undertaking infused with enthusiasm for learning, sharing, listening to other voices and with reassessing strategies and approaches as the Hickory Bluff project moves from field recovery through analysis, interpretation and presentation. To understand why I view Hickory Bluff as a watershed in Delaware archeology, the experience needs to be understood as a package. The best way I know how to share this with you is to briefly chronicle what I observed and participated in - hoping that you will also gain from our collective experience.

#### WHAT DID WE PLAN TO DO IN A DIFFERENT WAY?

At the outset, DeIDOT, SHPO and Parsons decided to rethink approaches to archeology for the Hickory Bluff recovery. We wanted recovery based on state-of-the-art research, a recovery that took advantage of the collective archeological knowledge and experience available to us and a recovery that informed the public about archeology and the Native American history at Hickory Bluff. In retrospect, I would classify the way in which we addressed these issues as 1) Management Enhancements and 2) Programmatic Enhancements.

##### Management Enhancements:

- 1) As SHPO, I wanted the Preservation Office archeologists to provide more than a regulatory

function or to merely check proposals and reports for adherence to government standards. I wanted them to be full partners in defining research objectives and developing the recovery approach - to be part of the team with DeIDOT and Parson's archeologists. In this way, the Hickory Bluff recovery would benefit from the breadth of the consultant's experience and the depth of knowledge about Delaware archeology brought to the project by the states archeologists. The objective was to not have any one party drive the process, but permit a team of archeologists to bring their knowledge and experience together to arrive at a consensus. (Yes, in my experience archeologists can reach a consensus!) This process continues in the analysis stages of this project.

- 2) (Mngmt. Enhancement) DeIDOT and Parsons, as well as other specialists, committed to a level of data analysis concurrent with the recovery effort. This also included preliminary results from some specialized studies. The purpose was to provide feedback from the lab to help inform the recovery in-progress and to adjust strategies or suggest new strategies for the recovery. Interim management summaries were quickly distributed to all parties and frequently resulted in in-filed consultation. Summaries included raw data, texts or graphics and sometimes all three. The data focussed on the key research objectives of the recovery - chronology, technology, feature formation and function and general site formation and site structure. All parties agreed to timely response to summaries and attendance at field consultations.

**Programmatic Enhancements:**

- 1) DeIDOT, supported by SHPO, committed the funding necessary to acquire specialists and budget for specialized studies, including experimental archeology, and analytical techniques focussing on the research objectives to produce independent and hopefully, converging lines of evidence to inform on those topics. Importantly, the data recovery was scheduled well in advance of construction to permit a more thoughtful

pace of recovery - at least that was the intent at the start. The overall purpose was to assemble a highly qualified team, many of whom you have heard from today, to undertake the recovery and allow time to do so.

- 2) ( Program enhancement) DelDOT and Parsons led in planning and carrying out an extensive public outreach campaign designed to inform the public about archeology as a discipline in general and Native American history at Hickory Bluff specifically. Included was a successful effort to engage practicing archeologists and geo-archeologists and other specialists in the region and seek their views on research objectives and strategies as well as sharing the on-going results of research.

These quality enhancements were at a larger scale, more in depth and provided a more focused recovery that, in my experience, has been typically practiced in Delaware. This process of developing and refining management and programmatic approaches to the practice of archeology in the state will and should continue, building on our experience at Hickory Bluff. Still, considered alone, this is not yet the stuff that makes Hickory Bluff a watershed in the history Delaware archeology, though I believe it set the stage - the team was together, focused and working well as a team.

## SO WHAT COMPLETES THE PACKAGE?

The public outreach program successfully reached a broad cross-section of people in Delaware over many months. Among the people reached was the Nanticoke Indian Community. Admittedly, the contact was indirect through the general media. Nevertheless, this resulted in the first, of many, trips to Hickory Bluff by Mr. Charles Clark, Assistant Chief of the Nanticoke Indian Tribe, on a day when only two Parsons staff and I were present: A short tour was followed by long discussions and a lot of listening by me. I would not characterize the experience as confrontational, or warm for that matter, it was - well - awkward, with a measure of defensiveness thrown in on both sides. It was a kind of testing

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*As we all know, integrity of contexts can provide clarity. But clarity can be confusing & challenging.*

of intentions, interests, and character on both sides - or to use a term borrowed by archeologists, a testing of integrity. At the risk of oversimplification of historically complex issues, the basic reason for the meeting was this - The Nanticoke wanted to know how we could be conducting a major recovery effort focussing on Native American heritage and not think to contact them for input or at least inform them directly. Me - didn't know you were interested. Nanticoke - how could you think we would not be interested? Good question - CHECK!

Many meetings with Nanticoke representatives followed with other Government officials, including the Governors office, archeologists and others as we began the slow, sometimes painful process in building trust and respect and understanding and in my view we have come a long way and we are still on that journey. The goal is to build a long-term relationship between state archeologists and the Native American community as a result of Hickory Bluff.

#### HOW HAS THIS INFLUENCED ARCHEOLOGY TODAY IN DELAWARE?

First, I see effect within the community of professional archeologists - we are already witnessing debate in regional conferences and e-mail list-serves. This is a normal, if not always polite, process in accepting or processing new or different perspectives, *and different frames of reference.*

Second, we have started a process where the Nanticoke views are sought and information shared on all phases of the archeological process including survey strategies, establishing significance, research questions of interest, interpretation and public outreach programming. Essentially, to become an equal part of project teams. *AND The learning goes both ways*

Third - long-term site identification and protection is a priority - to preserve through acquisition or easement, sites significant to Native American history. Together, as natural partners in caring for Native American sites, we will be much more politically effective in accomplishing this goal than separately.

Fourth - Archeology in Delaware *has begun* ~~needs~~ to take seriously the responsibility for sharing information with the Native

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American community and enhancing the community's ability to learn about and have access to and develop stewardship of its archaeological heritage.

*And we are developing the skill to not only share, but LISTEN*

This relationship between the state archeology, the professional community and the Native American community is still unfolding in Delaware. The archeology at Hickory Bluff, and the character of all the people involved, provided a catalyst for this change. One cannot plan watershed events in many senses, they just simply occur as a result of opportunities taken (or not) and we are either receptive to change and growth in knowledge and new perspectives and relationships, or we're not. Hickory Bluff is a watershed in Delaware archeology - for all of the things we planned and those we did not - working together to create a fundamental shift in the way archeology is carried out in Delaware.

In Delaware and at Hickory Bluff it was time; there are no coincidences -