2021 NEARA VIRTUAL FALL CONFERENCE

Saturday November 6th

10am

Terry Deveau – Welcome
Terry Deveau & Walter van Roggen – Announcements
Harvey Buford – **OSL Dating Team Update**
Gregory Herman – **The Stone Mounds of Cushetunk Mountain**
Vance Tiede – **Interpreting the Gungywamp**

1pm

Dave Gutkowski & Tom Elmore – **Converging Lines of Evidence on Council Rock Mountain**
Glenn Kreisberg – **Manitou Hassannash of the Catskills**

3pm

Mary Ellen Lepionka – **Stone Structures on Cape Ann**
Martin Rapp – **Recognizing Stone Features by LIDAR; two Chambers in New Jersey**
Terry Deveau – **Dolmens around the World**
Terry D & Walter – Announcements & Closure

Sunday November 7th

Simultaneous *non-virtual in-person on-site* field trips in:

Connecticut, New London County, Gungywamp
Massachusetts, Worcester County, Rock House
New Hampshire, Hillsborough County, Fox Forest
New Jersey, Morris County, The Tourne
New York, Ulster County, Lewis Hollow
New York, Putnam County, Hawk Rock
Rhode Island, Washington County, Crown Farm

Details will be announced several times on Saturday the 6th during the webinar.
Remember that we switch to Eastern Standard Time early in the morning of Sunday the 7th.

Check our web site for the latest information: neara.org

2021 NEARA VIRTUAL FALL CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

Gregory Herman – The Stone Mounds of Cushetunk Mountain
In 2018, after conducting a photographic inventory of the Hunterdon County Historical Society, New Jersey, Deats-Thatcher Indian artifact collection, and while conducting historical research on the area, I came across a passage in James P. Snell's *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey,*(1881) telling of a long-fabled Indian occupation and tombs atop a local mountain. With the help of my dog and a few friends, I (re-) located an area containing what may have been, or are such tombs. They are mounds of deliberately-stacked stones, with the largest mound and a few others showing signs of past foraging and disruption. This presentation summarizes aspects of their rediscovery, their physical nature, and places them into a regional and historical context.

Dr. Gregory Charles Herman is a licensed professional geologist specializing in structural and tectonic analyses, and fractured-bedrock aquifers. As of late I have been conducting geoarchaeological research. My blogs, publications, virtual GeoTools, classes, and Google Earth themes are available at ImpactTectonics.org

Vance Tiede – Interpreting the Gungywamp: Evidence & Implications of an Irish Early Christian Papar Provenience?
With their recent acquisition by the State of Connecticut, there is renewed interest in the Gungywamp (Groton, CT) site's stone cairns, chambers, rotary mill race, Chi-Rho (XP) petroglyphs, rock shelter, and walls. Apart from Indigenous Peoples and English Colonists, multiple independent converging lines of physical evidence are more consistent with Celtic Early Christian occupation as early as recorded in the premedieval *Navigatio Sancti Brendani Abbatis*. A multi-disciplinary analysis is presented comparing the Gungywamp site to the Calendar II Chamber site (South Woodstock, VT) and the Early Christian oratories of Iceland, Ireland, Romano-Britain and Scotland.

Vance Tiede specializes in GIS and remote sensing applications in order to determine astronomical orientation of ancient monumental architecture worldwide. His research publications on astro-archaeology at Stonehenge, Irish Early Christian oratories, Graeco-Roman and Egyptian temples, Mayan and Mississippian pyramid mounds, Babylonian ziggurats and Chinese pyramid tombs may be viewed online at academia.edu. Vance holds a MA in Archaeological Studies (Yale University) and BA in History (The Johns Hopkins University).

Dave Gutkowski & Tom Elmore – Converging Lines of Evidence on Council Rock Mountain

In 2007, Dave Gutkowski discovered a 4000-year-old archaeoastronomy site in what is now Pennsylvania. Research on the four initially identified twenty-ton boulders has since expanded to include multiple sites of interest on the same mountain. The archaeoastronomy site and a nearby rockshelter on Council Rock Mountain are now registered with the state of PA's SHPO. In 2020, Tom Elmore of the GeoNAV group 3D scanned multiple sites across a large area using state of the art LiDAR equipment, and Doria Kotrubes of Radar Solutions International conducted ground penetrating radar surveys. This presentation will cover the significant results of the LiDAR surveys, several very

exciting discoveries realized through Tom's work, and integration of the resulting 3D models with desktop planetarium software.

Dave Gutkowski is a dedicated avocational archaeologist and long-time member of NEARA. He also holds membership in the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, the Eastern States Archaeological Federation and Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference. His work in this field began in 2007 with the discovery of the Council Rocks archaeoastronomy site and continues with Alpenglow Rockshelter, now his second officially registered site with the PA Historic and Museum Commission. Dave is a true Renaissance man: a storage business owner, retired postmaster, Reiki master/massage therapist, licensed pilot, woodcrafter, and naturalist. His constant striving to connect the dots with careful research continues to accelerate academic interest in his work. Dave is currently the PA Coordinator for NEARA.

Thomas Elmore, ASLA, LEED AP, is a landscape architect from Suffield, Connecticut with over three decades of experience. He is the owner of Elmore Design Collaborative, LLC (EDC), founded in 1999, an award-winning design firm that creates exceptional design ideas and provides consulting services in all aspects of landscape architecture and historic/cultural landscape preservation planning and design. Tom's work has included Cemeteries, Monuments and Memorials; Educational & Related Institutions; Museums & Historic Houses; Parks & Gardens; Private Residences & Estates; Public Sites and Facilities; and Streetscapes & Context Design. He holds a Masters of Landscape Architecture degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree from the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse, New York. Of special relevance, he has worked on National Register nominations and documentation, and Cultural Landscape Reports. Tom started The GeoNAV Group, LLC in 2018 to push the limits of this new technology.

Glenn Kreisberg – Manitou Hassannash of the Catskills

The program will cover sites in the Catskill Mountains, many considered Manitou Hassannash (spirit stones) and suspected of being Native American ceremonial stone landscape (CSL). Site features include: dry stacked stone constructions consisting of cairns (piles, mounds or platforms), walls and effigies (serpents and turtles). Some features show alignments with celestial positions.

Glenn Kriesberg is a NYS DEC licensed outdoor guide, engineer, writer and researcher, studying archaeoastronomy and landscape archaeology in northeast America.

Mary Ellen Lepionka – Stone Structures on Cape Ann

As in other regions throughout the Western Hemisphere, New England landscapes contain stone structures that have been built by Indigenous peoples and boulders that have been moved or modified by them for both practical and spiritual uses, including astronomical observations and ceremonial gatherings. Cape Ann is no exception. This presentation identifies and illustrates likely examples of such boulders, stone structures, and repurposed landscapes found on Cape Ann and nearby in Essex County, Massachusetts. Also addressed are problems in the identification, authentication, and interpretation of the proposed evidence.

Mary Ellen Lepionka of Gloucester is an independent scholar researching the history of Cape Ann from the last Ice Age to around 1700 for a book on the subject. Mary Ellen is a retired college

instructor, textbook developer, author, and publisher with a Master's degree in anthropology from Boston University and post-graduate work at the University of British Columbia. She taught anthropology and world history at Boston University, Vancouver City College, Northeastern University, North Shore Community College, and Salem State College. She participated in salvage archaeology on Great Neck in Ipswich, excavated an Early Iron Age Bantu refuge site in Botswana, and conducted fieldwork in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Mary Ellen also had a career in higher education publishing as a developmental editor of college textbooks. Her book, *Writing and Developing Your College Textbook,* has been published in a third edition by the Text and Academic Authors Association. Articles and essays by Mary Ellen appear in the *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society* and the blogs *Cape Ann History*, *Enduring Gloucester,* and *Historic Ipswich*.

Martin Rapp –
Pointers for Recognizing Stone Features on New Jersey LIDAR
Learn some pointers to consider when reviewing LIDAR imaging in search of stone features. Rock piles and or cairns are often made visible on LIDAR. Wall patterns including zig zag, or possible serpents might also be revealed. Some field-checked examples of sites found on LIDAR will be illustrated along with some distractions to watch for.

A Pair of Classically Constructed Stone Chambers Identified in New Jersey
Despite northern New Jersey's similar topography/geology to eastern New York state, with a multitude of classic stone chambers, such chambers have gone unreported in New Jersey. A pair of stone chambers identified in northern New Jersey will be described, along with their questionable fate.

Martin Rapp recently retired from a 33-year career as a Wildlife Biologist/Ecologist managing a system of nature preserves across New Jersey. He has now focused his attention on locating Ceremonial Stone Landscapes in New Jersey. He works closely with the Ramapough Lenape Nation and the NJ State Historic Preservation Office in this endeavor. Involved with NEARA for just six years he has identified dozens of locations of cairn fields both big and small, stone serpents and a whole lot more.

Terry Deveau – Dolmens Around the World
Dolmens around the world...

Terry J. Deveau works for Jasco Applied Sciences as Senior Scientist – Ocean Acoustics. He graduated from Penn State University with an MS in Acoustics in 1999. His specialty is computer models of underwater sound. He has been employed in scientific software development since his university undergraduate days in 1974, and in the past has worked for Unisys, MacDonald Dettwiler, and the Government of Canada. He also has a BSc in mathematics, a diploma in engineering, and has done work at the graduate level in astrophysics. Terry has taught object-oriented computer programming at the university level. Terry served as NEARA president for six years (2012 to 2018) and is now serving NEARA as 2nd Vice-President, Transit newsletter editor, and Chapter Coordinator for Atlantic Canada. He also serves with the NEARA editorial team on the publications committee and assists with website development.