



Can you identify this Object?



May, 2013

See the back for answer.

Dave Gutkowski to Speak about Local Ceremonial Site

The May meeting of the Frances Dorrance Chapter of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology will be held on May the 28th at 7:00 PM in the Duryea Municipal building at 311 Main St., Duryea, PA. The meeting is open to the public and the presentation is free of charge.

At this month's meeting, local member Dave Gutkowski will share a video he recently presented at the SPA Annual Meeting in Uniontown. Mr. Gutkowski is an avocational archaeologist who has been researching for five years a site he first discovered in 2004. The site appears to be an archaic astronomy site, ceremonial in nature and used to track the sun's passage over the course of the four seasons. Dave dates the site to 1825 BCE with a significant modification at 125 BCE. The video he produced compresses five years of his research into a twenty minute film. The film generated some serious interest at the State meeting and caught the attention of several archaeologists present. While its precise location is still confidential, he expects this site to be a substantial find for our area in years to come.

Dave is a relatively new member of SPA Chapter 11, having joined in 2011 after attending the State meeting in Morgantown. Besides his archaeology work, Dave is the owner of a mini-storage business and a licensed massage therapist and Reiki master. He is also a retired postmaster from the Shawanese office on Harvey's Lake, and is a graduate of Penn State University.

The Old Will be Rejoining the New (relatively new that is)

Over the next couple of weeks, the port covering the native American part of the Conrail site will be disassembled and moved back over to the area where the historic foundation is located. As usual, when the port covering the excavation is moved it will require the helping hands of as many volunteers as we can gather. It is truly an example of the old adage "many hands make light work". If you can help, it would be appreciated. The most difficult part of the move will be the repositioning of the metal port frame. It is not heavy, but it is cumbersome.

The area where the port will be set up is just to the south of the historic foundation. This area has recently been partially prepared by the removal of dead trees and brush. This was done with the invaluable aide of John Cremard and a piece of heavy equipment which plucked the dangerous trees like carrots and shook the roots to remove the soil from the roots. We wish to thank John and his helpers for making the area a bit safer and a lot easier to work in.

With the arrival of warm weather, it can be expected that people will be walking fields and river banks looking for surface finds. Please collect only where you have permission, and document these finds with as much information as you can. Remember the real value is the information obtained.

Ignored Art Depicts Early American Native Images

They have remained hidden for more than five centuries, but tiny figures of naked men wearing feathered head-dresses could be the first Western depiction of Native Americans, the Vatican claims. The group of tiny figures was discovered during the restoration of a magnificent fresco, owned by the Vatican, which depicts Christ's Resurrection. The painting, by the Renaissance master Pinturicchio, was finished in 1494, just two years after Christopher Columbus first set foot in the New World.. It has adorned the walls of the Borgia Apartments in the Vatican for 500 years but was only recently subjected to restoration work.. The naked men, who appear to be dancing, were spotted by a restorer, Maria Pustka, as she removed centuries of grime. Prof. Paolucci suggests that the "nude men, who are decorated with feathers and seem to be dancing," were inspired by the descriptions of tribesmen that Columbus brought back from his travels. Columbus's voyages across the Atlantic were commissioned by Spain, but Prof. Paolucci said the Vatican would inevitably have heard of his discoveries, particularly given that the Pope at the time, Alexander VI, the notorious Rodrigo Borgia, was Spanish. The mysterious figures remain unnoticed for so long because the Borgia Apartments were abandoned after the death of Alexander VI in 1503. Subsequent Popes did not want to be associated with the notorious family of schemers and adulterers. They were only reopened in 1889 by Leo XIII, and are now used to display a collection of religious art.

What is this Object ?

Horn Knob

If you didn't guess this one, it is not surprising. First of all a truly good picture of the item was not available, so an illustration from an old catalog was used. This is a drawing of a wooden horn knob. They were (and are) more commonly made of brass. Now what, you may ask, is a horn knob? In the days before cattle were routinely dehorned, farmers and carters would put tips on the sharp end of their oxen and other cattle's horns. This would make them safer to work around and make them less likely to injure one another. The knob would be fitted on the tip of the horn by whittling the horn to fit inside the base of the knob and then held in place by a set screw or peg. Horn knobs are still being used today especially by people who show working cattle.

**FRANCES DORRANCE CHAPTER 11
2013
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