

June 2005

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Tom Wheaton, ACRA's Executive Director retires.

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## ACRA's Mission

Our mission is to promote the professional, ethical, and business practices of the cultural resources industry, including all of its affiliated disciplines, for the benefit of the resources, the public, and the members of the association by:

- promoting and supporting the business needs of cultural resources practitioners;
- promoting professionalism in the cultural resources industry;
- promoting and providing educational and training opportunities for the cultural resources industry; and
- promoting public awareness of cultural resources and its diverse fields.

A basic tenet of ACRA's philosophy is the cost efficiency of private-sector firms in meeting the need for expertise in cultural resource management. ACRA is strongly opposed to unfair competition from tax-supported contracting programs. We believe that a greater benefit to society, and to the resources, derives from the existence of a healthy community of tax-paying, job-generating, private-sector CRM businesses.

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## 10TH ANNUAL ACRA CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 8-11, 2005

The 10th Annual ACRA Conference will be held at the Hotel Monaco, Washington D.C. Next year's conference, which will focus on government issues, is scheduled to start one day early, on Wednesday, to afford attendees an opportunity to meet with their legislators.

The Hotel Monaco is the former Tariff Building, built in the mid-nineteenth century. This Registered National Landmark is Washington, DC's first all-marble building. For a preview of the hotel visit [www.monaco-dc.com](http://www.monaco-dc.com).

## ACRA Lapel Pins

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## Tom Wheaton - The Father of ACRA

*Submitted By Joe Joseph*

While most ACRA members recognize Tom Wheaton's role in the organization as its Executive Director, few remember the early days and ACRA's formation or realize how integral Tom is to ACRA's existence. So, let me provide the brief but largely true story of Tom Wheaton, the Father of ACRA.

The notion of what would become the American Cultural Resource Association came up over a cup of coffee at the coffee pot at New South Associates, which is where Tom and I have had probably 98% of our conversations. It was late summer, 1994. The Department of Labor was in the process of issuing wage rates for Archaeological Technicians under the Service Contract Act, which nobody quite understood. An archaeological union, the United Archaeological Field Technicians, was organizing and no one knew exactly what that meant either. Business insurance premiums had been on the increase and as with most things we dealt with as business owners, none of the insurance companies understood what we did. And, while we didn't recognize the meaning at that moment, the campaigns for the mid-term election were well underway with the Republicans gaining momentum. As we discussed these and other factors of the business of CRM, Tom and I both agreed that what was needed was a forum in which the owners of CRM firms could come together to pool their knowledge, share their experiences, and provide a voice for the industry. But what would such a forum be?

Tom followed up this conversation with some research and quickly identified that there were many such corporate associations in the engineering and construction fields, which were generally known as trade associations. Why not such an association for the CRM industry? he asked. Because there isn't anybody to organize and support such an association, I responded. We talked about working with the existing archaeological societies, the SAA and the SHA primarily, but both of us

agreed that the notion of creating a trade association would not likely appeal to them. First, the societies still had an academic bias; second, there was no society that was made up of archaeologists, historians, and architectural historians, the primary disciplines in the industry; and third, and most important, what Tom envisioned would be an organization made up of CRM companies, not people. There was no basis for that type of organization in archaeology or history at that time. If the societies aren't the way to go, then how is something like this supposed to get off the ground? I asked, thinking that there was no answer.

I've learned over the years that leaving open-ended questions like that unanswered is not always a good idea with Tom, but it was not a question that Tom was willing to let die. He started contacting other CRM principals - Dan Roberts, Chuck Niquette, Kevin Pape,



Tom Expounding - Really, what more is there to say? (Early 90s)

Don Weir, Mike Polk, Duane Peter, Charissa Wang, Patrick O'Bannon, Joe Schuldenrien and Dana McGowan in particular - via both the phone and the internet. Email was then still a relatively new technology, but Tom had always had a strong background in computers and he was internet savvy before most of us knew what the internet was. What he found was that others in CRM saw the same need that he did. The results of limited correspondence with a small group were not sufficient to give any structure or direction to this idea, so Tom took the next step. The Southeastern Archaeological Conference was meeting in Lexington, Kentucky that year. Tom contacted the conference organizers and requested a room for a forum to discuss the need and benefit of a trade association for the cultural resource industry. When he advised me of this forum I was skeptical. Did he really think there would be that much interest? He hadn't even been planning on attending SEAC, but now that he was going to go just to put together this forum, did he have to? (I was still leery about Tom attending conferences since in New South Associates' first year of existence he had used his corporate American Express to open a tab for a table at the bar at the SAA in Atlanta, and had neglected to close the tab when he left. Word got out that anyone at that table could drink on Tom's tab and you can imagine my shock when New South got a \$1,000 plus bar bill in the next Am Ex statement). Didn't he have something billable to do? How much time was this trade association taking? None of these questions mattered to Tom, thankfully. He was on a mission.

I flew up for the day of the forum – Tom had been there earlier, networking and lobbying. I remember my shock when I entered the ballroom where the forum was scheduled. It was packed. In addition to CRM principals and staff who were attending the SEAC meetings, there were others like me who had flown in just for this discussion. And while people talked about

insurance premiums, wage rates and the union, most of the conversation was directed at problems in the CRM industry itself. In fact, so much of the discussion was griping about the negative elements in CRM that this meeting became known as the first of the ACRA "gripe sessions." I realized that in this room were the owners and representatives of a large number of CRM firms who all cared about the same things that I cared about: the resources and the quality of work in the industry. They wanted a voice. Tom had tapped into a need. The forum ended with a unanimous vote that a trade association for the cultural resource industry should be formed, with Tom charged with making this happen.

The aftermath of the Lexington meeting marked the beginning of Tom's transformation from a principal in New South Associates to the Director of ACRA. There was a follow-up meeting to spread word of the new organization at the SHA meetings in Washington in early 1995, which in turn was followed by an organizational meeting in Denver in February. It was at this meeting that Jeanne Harris came up with a name for this association - the American Cultural Resources Association, which fortunately beat out the name proposed by Dan Roberts that went something like National Organization of Cultural Resource Associated Professionals. It was ACRA, not NOCRAP. Tom's efforts were now fully devoted to this new organization, on the internet, on the phone, constantly working for the creation of ACRA. I remember my frustration when I went to him with a project I wanted him to run and Tom told me he was too busy with ACRA to work on the project, and that ACRA was more important than New South Associates. The organization came together, officers were elected, By-Laws created, the first Board meeting held in Atlanta in April, 1995, and the first conference scheduled for Washington in October of that year. I looked forward to a time when ACRA would be up and running on its own and Tom could go back to running projects and bringing in revenue, but that time

never arrived. The Republican Revolution hit and with it the efforts in Congress to do away with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. ACRA, mainly Tom and the internet, led the charge in opposition and the historic preservation community was stunned and grateful for the success of this new, and at that time relatively unknown, organization that so effectively mobilized its membership. ACRA was on the map.

Somewhere in the midst of all of this, several members of ACRA's Board and Chuck Niquette, then President, approached me independently all asking the same question, Could Tom serve as ACRA's Director? ACRA's officers had looked into the option of hiring a service to provide the Directorship, but had recognized that the organization was not able to afford such a service at that time in its existence, nor would a service have been able to be as vigilant and responsive as Tom had proven in the defense of the ACHP. ACRA obviously needed a Director to move the organization forward. I can remember either Chuck or one of the other Board members telling me, "We have to have a paid Director, I can't do all of this work, I've got a company to run." Well, New South had me, so maybe we could loan Tom to ACRA. ACRA's officers made New South Associates an offer – ACRA would pay Tom's direct salary for a third of the year. No G&A overhead, no profit. When I took this offer to our Board they thought I was nuts, until I pointed out to them that Tom was devoted to ACRA and that he had been spending nearly all of his time on the organization anyway. If we didn't make Tom available to serve as Director, it would take ACRA's Board months to find an alternative, during which Tom would still be working with ACRA. At least ACRA would be shouldering some of the cost. On second thought, New South's Board accepted the offer. At the time I thought it would be for a year or two, until ACRA was up and on its feet, but obviously, that wasn't the case. As ACRA has grown, so have the Director's responsibilities, and so has the

connection between Tom and ACRA. Over the years ACRA has been able to increase New South Associates' compensation for Tom's service to include overhead, but we've never asked for a profit on Tom's time. ACRA, by its existence, profits us all.

Over the years I've quit feeling resentment when Tom introduces himself at conferences and even to prospective clients as ACRA's Director, rather than New South's Vice President. His identification with ACRA is far stronger than his association with New South Associates. Tom created ACRA, and has helped to guide it since creation. In my mind, the two will never be apart, not even after he retires. ACRA was his child, and while I'm pleased to see ACRA move into adulthood and out on its own, we all need to recognize Tom, not just as Executive Director, but also as ACRA's Daddy.

J. W. (Joe) Joseph, PhD, RPA  
President  
New South Associates

Tom -

*We appreciate what you have done for all of us over the past 10 years. Our discipline is stronger than when you found it - largely by your significant contributions to the CRM community. You will be missed, Tom. Best of luck with all you do from this day forward.*

Chuck Niquette 6/7/05

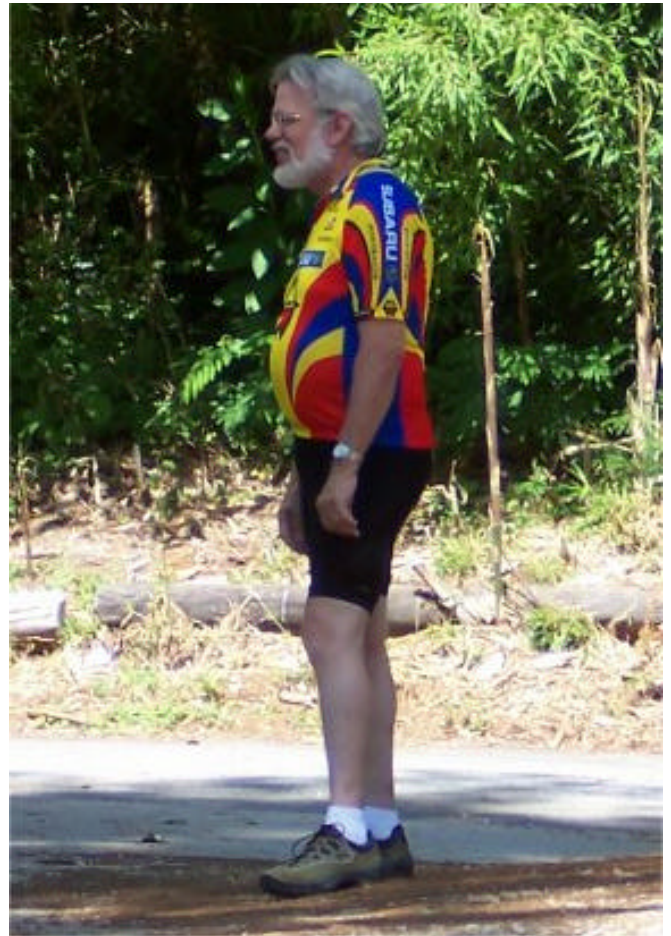


## A PICTORIAL TRIBUTE TO TOM WHEATON.

(Provided by the staff of New South Associates.)



Tom with Pith Helmet - For several years going in the field with Tom meant seeing his Pith Helmet and its French Flag Patches. Unfortunately for Tom (and unbeknownst to him), he left it next to a test unit one day, and a disgruntled field tech buried it while backfilling the unit. Ca 1989



Tom Biking - In recent years Tom has become a road biking enthusiast, and as might be expected has bought all the required equipment, including the shorts. May 2005

*I don't have any cute or witty stories about Tom. I just would like to thank him for all of his hard work over the past decade.*

Kay Simpson



Photos taken on testing projects in the Francis Marion Forest of South Carolina. Early to mid 90s



Tom at Life College - This is Tom actually wielding a shovel, though we suspect it was just for the photo op as his white shirt seems awfully clean. (Early 90s)

#### TRIBUTE TO TOM

*To Tom on his retirement from ACRA and archaeology. Hail and farewell, God speed, salutations, kudos, good luck, pip pip, and all that rot. Tom you are the heart and soul of ACRA and were the primary motivator for its creation and its continued success. Always ACRA's greatest advocate you will be missed, but not forgotten. No one ever really retires from archaeology and thus far no one has ever retired from ACRA, because you would not allow it! As the father of ACRA, or is it now "grandfather" of ACRA, I hope that you will continue to mentor your creation when called upon from your deck chair on the beach, with your palm pilot in one hand and a drink with one of those little umbrellas in the other hand. Congratulations Baba Wheaton and good luck and prosperity as you embark on the next phase of your life and career.*

Cory Dale Breternitz  
 President  
 Soil Systems, Inc.  
 Past President and Charter Member of ACRA

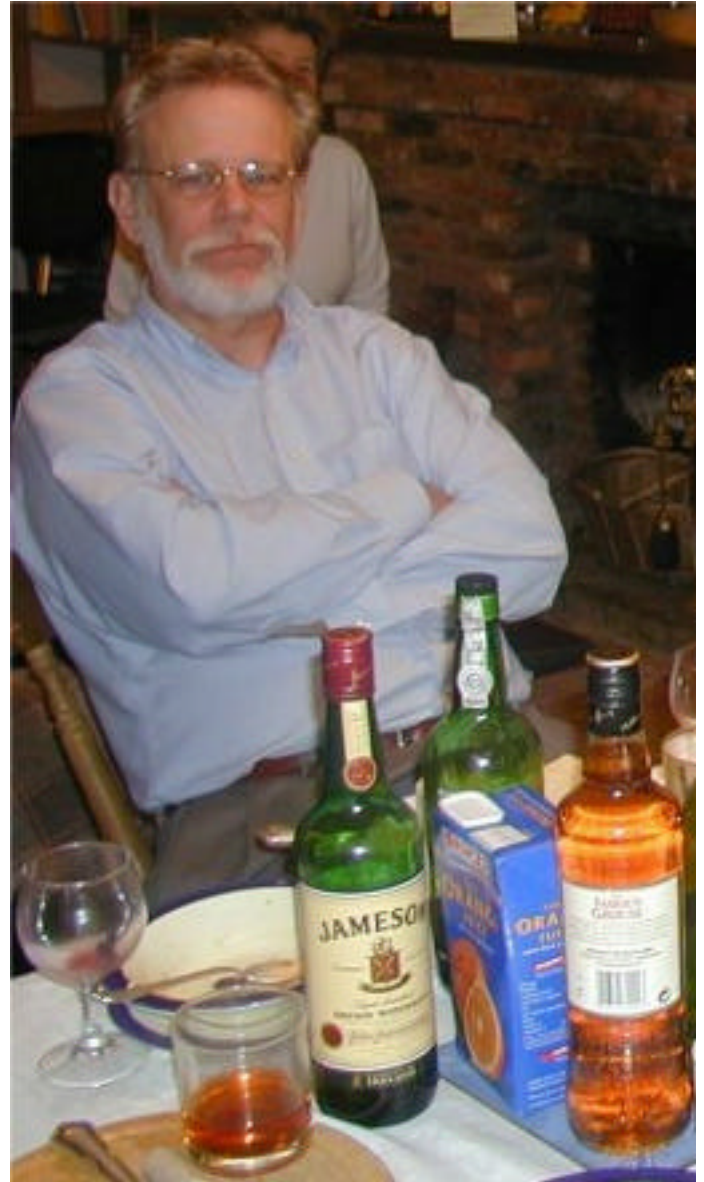
## TOM WHEATON TRIBUTE

Back in 1994, our office received a flyer from Tom Wheaton about gathering in Lexington, Kentucky, to form an association of cultural resources management firms. We were still basically a two-person firm, and barely knew there were actually other firms out there doing similar work, let alone the term “cultural resources management.” But, my business partner and I drove out there, with reluctant beagle in tow. As I recall, there was chatter going around at the meeting to call the new organization something along the lines of Cultural Resources Association of Professionals, or CRAP. Tom held firm on the acronym ACRA. :) And not long afterwards, I found myself one of the original ACRA board members.

I've been a board member every year until the 2004 conference, when my second term expired. In that time, my company has grown from a small firm to a medium-large firm, and from two employees to about 20. Tom has always been there to answer questions and clarify issues. His willingness to share knowledge, and the inspiration to form ACRA so small firms like ours could network, has been a major contribution to the growth of Hardlines Design Company.

At one board meeting a year or two ago, Tom wistfully said to me that he and I were the only original board members left, even though we knew change was one sign of a successfully growing organization. As an original board member who left the board as Tom officially announced his retirement, it's like I've come full circle with him. The membership of ACRA can therefore offer no better tribute to Tom Wheaton than to ensure that ACRA, the organization he was instrumental in establishing, continues to evolve and grow in the years to come.

Charissa Wang, AIA  
President  
Hardlines Design Company



Tom experiences a typical English archaeologist's dinner. (York 2005)



## Tom and the Belly-dancer

It was on a hazy night in Alexandria, Virginia. A group of us were sitting around a in a Moroccan restaurant after having been on a candlelight tour of Mount Vernon. After that almost other-worldly experience, we were brought back to earth by the appearance of a belly-dancer. What that has to do with ACRA I don't know, but it seemed a good lead-in.

The topic of conversation turned as always to archaeology. Tom brought up the need to find a way for companies to be able to offer health insurance to technicians— maybe a group of firms could get together and work something out.

As the conversation drifted on to other topics, apparently Tom wasn't focused entirely on the belly-dancer! At the SEAC conference in Lexington, Kentucky, the subject of a Cultural Resources trade association was introduced. The meeting room was packed and the idea was off and running. Thanks Tom for keeping your eye on the ball instead of the belly!

Loretta  
Coastal Carolina Research, Inc.



**Tom as Early Adopter - Tom was on the technology bandwagon long before most of us even thought of the potential advantages computers could bring us. The beginnings of New South's Macintosh network is seen in the Mac Plus on Tom's desk. (Early 90s)**

## TOM WHEATON AND THE FORMATION OF ACRA: A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

*Submitted By Mike Polk*

I first met Tom Wheaton at the Society for Historical Archaeology Conference in Washington, D.C. in January 1995. I was sitting on a couch in the Marriott Hotel talking with Dan Roberts. Dan asked me to come into an adjacent room with him to talk with some people about an organization they were thinking of starting in the CRM field. I was kind of skeptical, but didn't have much else to do at the time, so I went in. Well, this seemed to be an "invitation only" sort of affair and, when I was introduced to Tom, he seemed a bit leery of this unknown Westerner from some run-of-the-mill CRM company in Utah, of all places. Nevertheless, he seemed to take Dan at his word that I was ok to be a part of this organizing effort. Tom proceeded to outline his vision of an organization that could fill a need that many of us in the profession didn't even realize that we had.

I'm not familiar with how trade associations in general operate or how they are originally formed, but I imagine that it is not unlike how ACRA began: with a person having a very, focused and passionate concern for a particular profession or industry. That is Tom Wheaton. I'm sure that there could have been others to come along sooner or later who would put together a similar organization for the CRM Industry, but without someone with a vision as strong as Tom's I don't think that it could blossom into the association that ACRA is today. I know that it would not have the recognition and stature that ACRA has attained in Congress nor the respect that it has attained across the nation among agencies, professional societies, and throughout the CRM industry itself.

From the beginning of this foray into the unknown, Tom has often been the person who has taken that first step into difficult circumstances. Few CRM professionals, certainly archaeologists, had



Tom at 1st annual meeting taking to audience (1995).

thought about going to their congressman to talk about the cultural resources field, and certainly never thinking about going to Washington to talk with people on Capitol Hill. I know that I didn't. In fact, until ACRA came along, I had hardly been to Washington. Insurance, labor, regulatory issues - we all struggled with them in our own way and in our own states, but few thought about talking to someone else about how to deal with them, least of all a competitor. They were the enemy, not an ally. Tom's vision of this organization was to change that, to have all of us get

together and talk through our common issues and find out how similar our problems are. I remember an incident where this was most clearly pointed out at our organizational meeting in February 1995. At that time a group of about 10-15 CRM company owners met at a hotel in Denver for a weekend to hammer out the basic outline of this trade association. We met in a dimly lit conference room, barely big enough to fit all of us and it had a very noisy air conditioner. But it was here that the mission statement, the dues structure, the bylaws and the very name of the organization were decided upon. As a sidebar, it was interesting that Tom chose a hotel that was right across the street from a strip club. Whether he intended that, I'm not sure, but after a particularly strenuous day of work, Chuck Niquette led a contingent of owners over to visit this nightclub. Anyway, during this meeting, Tom Lennon was first introduced to the core organizers of what was to become the American Cultural Resources Association. His reaction was the same as that of many, though Tom Lennon was much more openly enthusiastic. He could not believe that there were other owners out there with the same problems and the same issues that he had in CRM. He was ecstatic to be able to talk to people who truly understood what he was up against and going through. A lot of people who have joined ACRA since that time have likely felt the same way. I know that I did.

Tom Wheaton's vision for this organization was not limited to his understanding of the structure and the nuts and bolts of how it could help companies. He saw it in larger scope, that it could literally transform the field of CRM into an industry with clout; that it could far exceed the combined number and financial means of the individual companies involved. And he has been right. He knew that to tap into this country's love of historic preservation, archaeology, and buildings would give us more support in Congress, in statehouses and on main street than any plea for protecting jobs or appealing the loss of our economic



Tom Wheaton receiving special achievement award from Mike Polk at 3rd ACRA Annual Meeting in St. Louis (1997).

benefits to communities could ever do. Thus, he helped lead ACRA into its first major battle in Congress in 1995, the one that put ACRA on the map in the minds of agencies and CRM companies nationwide. At that time, the Advisory Council was under siege and, literally, its existence came down to a vote in the House of Representatives. ACRA was there to fight for support of continuance of its existence, in part so that the National Historic Preservation Act could not be compromised. It was this issue which showed, for the first time in the CRM field, the value and power of use of email communication. Whether it was because of ACRA or not, this organization was recognized by many for its efforts in this regard. There were many subsequent efforts by ACRA to support or protest various forms of legislation or regulation, depending upon its perceived effect upon the CRM field. Loretta Newman, and later Nellie Longworth, have led these



Board of Directors (including Tom) at 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting in Sacramento 1996.

efforts, aided by Tom as our Executive Director.

Through the years Tom has been a shining light for this organization as well as an irritant for some within it. I have heard many people grouse about Tom's methods in guiding ACRA as its Executive Director. At times he has been seen as an obstructionist to new ideas and ways of doing things, and yet, there has been no one to step forward who would or could lead this organization in as a consistent and forceful basis as Tom has over the last 10 years. There have been many ideas put forth and many good intentions, but as CRM professionals, few if any of us have the time, energy or commitment to put into administering this organization. We barely have enough time to run our own companies. With his company's, New South Associates', blessing, and Tom's passion and knowledge of the field from both an employee and, later, an owner's perspective, he has been able to keep ACRA moving forward on a consistent basis.

Over the years that I have known Tom, I have grown in my respect for his abilities and accomplishments, both within and outside of ACRA. Like all of us he has his limitations and his faults. I

found out about some of those when I was president in 1996-97. But most of all I have found, as everyone who has immersed themselves in ACRA to any extent has found, that the friendships and camaraderie developed here cannot be found anywhere else in our field. I don't think that Tom understood that starting this organization could have such an effect either. But ask anyone who has been a part of this association for a time and I think all will agree on this.

While I will miss Tom's leadership in ACRA, his wisdom, his corporate memory, and his energy, most of all I will miss his friendship. I will miss the knowledge that I will see him at least once or twice a year at our meetings. I could always look forward to seeing him in Seattle, or in Dallas, in Cincinnati, in Phoenix or a dozen other places around the country. I will miss the banter that we have. I will miss giving him a hard time about something he said to a colleague or in a talk at a meeting. I will miss having a drink with him at the bar and discussing the latest CRM issues, our companies, our future personal plans, and our families.

His footprint in this field will last as long as we





Tom at Board of Directors Meeting in Sacramento (1996).

do as a profession. His effect on all of us will last as long as we exist. Thanks, Tom, for all that you have done and all that you have become to all of us. We wish you much happiness and contentment in your retirement years and look forward to hearing from you from wherever you happen to be in the world.

Michael R. Polk  
Sagebrush Consultants, L.L.C.  
Ogden, Utah  
June 8, 2005

### Editorial Note..

*As editor of this newsletter, I have the advantage of reading what all my colleagues before me have written of Tom. As one who was there from the beginning, many of their accounts bring a smile to my face as I trip down memory lane. (I am sorry I missed the belly-dancer.)*

Tom Wheaton is unique, one of a kind and unforgettable. Isn't that what we all want to say? He has accomplished what none of us could do. But are we jealous or envious that he is regarded as the father of ACRA? No, on the contrary we are grateful for his dogged efforts and dedication to a cause that has benefitted everyone of us.

When Tom asked me to be editor for the newsletter we joked that our goal all along was to create jobs for ourselves so we might have staff meetings in exotic places like a Caribbean island or Mexico City. Unfortunately, most of our early meetings were cocooned weekend sessions in small windowless hotel meeting rooms in places like Lexington, Washington DC, and Denver. In Denver, I learned never to let Tom make the hotel arrangements. Unlike the men on the organizing committee, I didn't think the idea of passing the evening in the only near by entertainment venue - a strip bar - at all appealing.

ACRA has come a long way since those days and ACRA's success was built by the efforts of many individuals, but all of them will agree that Tom is the rock upon which ACRA is built.

Thank you Tom and best wishes.

Jeanne Harris

## A SLIGHTLY IRREVERENT TRIBUTE TO TOM WHEATON

*Submitted By Dan Roberts*

I first met Tom Wheaton at one of those professional conferences at an unremembered hotel in an unremembered city in an unremembered year that all becomes part of a blurred memory lapse when you have attended dozens of such conferences throughout your career. Since I don't remember any of the particulars of the time and place of our meeting, my first acquaintance with Tom must not have been one of the high points of my life or career, but I do remember my first impressions of him: rather brash, rather loud, and rather too self-assured. He's still rather brash, rather loud, and rather too self-assured, but over the years has come a certain mellowing of those traits that only the passage of time brings. And besides, as we all have come to know and appreciate Tom's abilities, he has earned the right to be a bit on the brash side, for his abilities are indeed many.

To those of us who were in on the ground floor of the founding of the American Cultural Resources Association, it goes without saying that there would be no ACRA without Tom Wheaton. ACRA was first formed as a gleam in Tom's eye in the early 1990s, and he almost single-handedly nurtured it through several formative meetings in Lexington, Washington, Denver, and Atlanta. If memory serves, the first "trial balloon" was floated at a meeting organized by Tom in conjunction with the Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC) meeting in Lexington, Kentucky, in the fall of 1994. Here, Tom put forth in detail his vision for the association, and met with a resounding vote of support from those in attendance to form the organization. Not being one to waste time, Tom then commandeered a meeting room at the January 1995 Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology in Washington, where he spread the word throughout

the conference for consultants to show up at such and such a time to further discuss the viability of forming a trade association. With only a few people in attendance, Tom had the audacity to further decrease the head count by calmly yet firmly "disinviting" one person from the meeting because she represented a "not-for-profit" consulting firm. Tom had, and still has, strong feelings that cultural resources consulting is best structured and provided as a for-profit business, and by this "brash" action he unequivocally showed his colors from the get-go. Undaunted by the episode, Tom viewed the meeting as utterly positive, and the formation of what ultimately was to become ACRA was officially underway.

Immediately after the Washington meeting, Tom began to structure the first working meeting of the fledgling association, held just a month later in Denver in February 1995. By now, Tom had succeeded in whipping several of us out of a "pie in the sky" mode and into a "can do" mode; accordingly, the Denver meeting was a productive one in which the first board of directors was formed; articles of incorporation, bylaws, and an ethics statement were written; and the name of the new association identified. This was all accomplished in the course of two days, with Tom's unbridled enthusiasm and optimism for the organization responsible for keeping us on track and on an even keel. By now, Tom's enthusiasm had rubbed off on the rest of us, and there were no longer any doubts that there was a significant constituency of cultural resources consulting firms out there that could benefit from the formation of a trade organization. The Denver meeting, with Tom Wheaton ably ensconced at the helm, is undoubtedly one of ACRA's defining moments, and it has assumed a prominent position in the organization's lore not only for its accomplishments, but also due to the presence of some "high-end cultural entertainment" directly across the street from the hotel.

Tom to this day has never divulged whether the selection of the hotel was by chance or by design, but to several of those in attendance it was, shall we say, fortuitous. By comparison, the first meeting of ACRA's board of directors held just two months later, in April 1995 in Atlanta, was almost anti-climactic.

The first annual meeting of the American Cultural Resources Association was held in Washington, DC in September of 1995, and although this meeting was organized and hosted by Loretta Newman, Tom's imprimatur was conspicuous throughout the meeting. Tom's vision always included an annual meeting filled with sessions on business and other "practical" topics, and this first meeting offered precisely that, with sessions on "beltway" politics, insurance coverages, approaches to marketing, and other germane topics. Each succeeding annual meeting of the organization has built on the success of that first meeting ten years ago in Washington, and each has featured sessions on timely topics useful to business owners and principals in the cultural resources industry. Under Tom's guidance, ACRA's annual meeting has become a major high point in what has become a crowded field of annual professional conferences that vie for our conference dollars.

Throughout ACRA's ten-year history, Tom Wheaton has ably and resolutely guided the organization as its first (and so far, only) Executive Director. He has accepted the challenge with the utmost skill, dedication, and commitment, and it is impossible to conceive of ACRA without Tom Wheaton. Without Tom's vision, there would be no ACRA. Without Tom's administrative skills, ACRA likely would not have prospered. And without Tom's leadership, ACRA likely would not be the major player it has been in the cultural resources industry nearly from its inception. It was Tom's leadership that was instrumental in repelling the attacks on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation by the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress shortly after ACRA's founding. It was Tom's leadership that skillfully and amicably responded to the opportunities and challenges posed by

the unionization of archeological field technicians. And it is now Tom's leadership that is at the forefront in fending off the attacks being launched by the current Congress or Section 106 and other provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act. Because Tom has always stayed abreast of computer technology, he was among the first to effectively utilize email to mobilize his constituents to action. And yes, he was also among the first to suffer some of the ill effects of using email too indiscriminately (some of his ill-conceived and hastily forwarded emails have also become the stuff of ACRA legend).

Throughout it all, and despite his lingering brashness, Tom has remained outwardly modest about his considerable accomplishments with regard to ACRA. As every good Executive Director knows, he instinctively and routinely has stayed in the background when credit was due to officers and board members. But those of us who know him well can detect a hint of pride in what he has been the prime mover in creating. Make no mistake about it—ACRA is Tom Wheaton's "baby" through and through. It has been his passion for the past decade and while many have served the organization well, no one has served the organization with more sustained skill and dedication than Tom.

And he still has that gleam in his eye that says "there's still work to be done". Can it be true, Tom, that you are actually retiring at the end of this year with work still to be done? I'm not at all sure which will be more difficult, Tom, you without ACRA or ACRA without you, but I know ACRA won't be the same after your retirement. Retire if you must, but go secure in the knowledge that you have left behind a legacy of accomplishment and excellence that will be difficult to replace and a constituency that is grateful for your contributions. Thanks for a job well done!

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT PRESERVE AMERICA AWARDS

*By Ian Burrow*

As your President I attended the Preserve America Awards at the White House today, May 2nd.

As you probably know, Preserve America is a White House initiative program established under Executive Order 13287 in March 2003 by George W. Bush ([www.preserveamerica.gov/EOtext.html](http://www.preserveamerica.gov/EOtext.html)). The text of the EO makes interesting reading in light of the recent draft amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act. It provides a graphic example of the separation of powers in action, because the amendments are strongly counter to the sentiments in the EO, to say the least.

As part of Preserve America, George and Laura Bush have established an awards program, now in its second year (Chris Dore attended last year). The awards are given to organizations, businesses, government entities, and individuals. The competition is administered by the ACHP. Awards criteria stress sustainable use of historic assets and their integration into contemporary communities. Awards were given for projects in Massachusetts, Missouri, Georgia and Texas.

Approximately 150 people attended: a mix of political and agency people, those receiving the awards and their supporters, and historic preservationists. Nancy Schmau of NCSHPO was there. After coffee and Danishes we proceeded to the lawn and heard brief addresses from Laura and George Bush during which all the right opinions were expressed about historic preservation.

I was able to have short conversation with John Nau, Chair of the ACHP. He is clearly aware of ACRA. I expressed our warm appreciation for his testimony to the sub committee hearing. He said that "as long as he was given a good script he could deliver it" (overly modest in my view). He expressed his irritation with the

cell tower testimony and over the confusion of issues in the hearing. I told him we would be at Annapolis in a couple of weeks and he said that, as far as he knew, this was the first time that archaeology had been a focus of an ACHP meeting.

I encountered a couple of people from the Historic Savannah Foundation (who were getting one of the awards). They remembered our conference, of course. Mark McDonald, their Executive Director, is a former attorney and very well up on NHPA and other historic preservation issues, and we had an interesting conversation.

I also spent some time talking to Julia King of the ACHP, who I think is very pleased at the archaeological involvement at the Annapolis meeting. She introduced me to a Park Service archaeologist (name escapes me for the moment) who expressed gratitude for the joint letter we sent about NHPA. She suggested that next time around we make a strong effort to get the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (based out of University of Georgia). I also had a conversation with Ron Anzalone of the ACHP staff and shared with him some of our lobbying perceptions from the week before last. He, like everyone else I talked to, has no clear idea of what Nunes will do next with regard to the NHPA changes. Bottom line: This is another opportunity for ACRA to affirm its place on the national scene, to build on our contacts and make some new ones, and pick up information on what is going on in historic preservation in DC.

I didn't get to meet Laura Bush, which I had actually hoped to do.



## HISTORIANS AND CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

*By Laura S. Black, Senior Project Manager, CHRS, Inc.*

In the spring of 2002 a small group of interested professionals met at the annual National Council on Public History (NCPH) meeting to discuss Cultural Resources Management (CRM) and its place in the organization. Was there both an interest and need for reinvigorating an existing, relatively quiet, NCPH CRM Committee? After some discussion, it was recommended that CRM, and the committee, each still had a valid place in NCPH. Shortly thereafter the NCPH CRM Committee was reestablished with an updated set of goals and tasks. One of those tasks was the development of a CRM mentor program for historians. The need for such a program, and the proposed direction it was to take, was underscored by a striking pattern that emerged during the planning stage. This pattern was the curiously tenuous relationship between history and CRM, and historians and CRM professionals. Unfortunately, and ironically, the CRM Committee was officially discontinued during widespread reorganization in NCPH prior to launching the program. Its charge was folded into the expanded charges of the remaining restructured committees. In the years since, the roles of history and historians in CRM, and vice versa, have continued to exhibit a curious mix of interdependence and under-recognition.

There are many professions comprised of individuals who, on one level or another, appreciate the past as much as the present and the future. Those individuals in the wide spectrum of positions in the history, public history, and CRM fields are among those most interested in and appreciative of the past. Traditional historians have relied primarily upon written or documentary materials in their research to produce an array of books, articles and classroom lectures, comprised primarily of the written word. CRM professionals use material culture and the built environment to produce a wide variety of products that often include the written word in conjunction with visual images, technology, and even active

participation. Public historians (concurrently working to solidify their identity as a profession and their relationship to traditional history [academia]) provide much of the common ground between these two groups. Historians working in CRM are inherently public historians. CRM professionals “doing” history in CRM are inherently doing public history. In theory they should all consider themselves part of a single entity linked by their interest and appreciation, using various methods, research materials, and products to understand and promote the past to others. Instead, these groups of professionals tend to hold their own fields separate from one another, fostering competition, isolation, and superiority complexes.

An informal survey was conducted during the planning of the proposed NCPH CRM mentor program among colleagues (primarily historians) working in various professional environments throughout the country. That survey revealed that a common attitude seems to exist that doesn’t necessarily value historians in the CRM field. One-third of the consultants who responded to NCPH’s consultant survey in 2003 (*Public History News* Winter 2003:8) were involved in historic preservation pursuits including cultural resource surveys and planning. The majority of the remainder were involved in research, museum consultation, and archival work. Curiously, it is the former group (those whose jobs most often fall into the category of CRM) – a full one-third of NCPH consulting historians – that have the least professional visibility, recognition, and perhaps respect, from fellow CRM professionals and academic historians. Further, historians typically overlook or dismiss the field of CRM. Students have little knowledge of professional opportunities in CRM, or encouragement to investigate them. Consensus among practicing historians during the NCPH informal survey was that there are limited oppor-

tunities for networking, mentoring, training, growth, and development within the historical part of the CRM team.

While historians don't generally view CRM as a viable or respected career option, CRM doesn't necessarily value the unique contributions that historians can bring to the field. A breakdown of disciplines in private sector consulting firms identified by ACRA ([www.acra-crm.org](http://www.acra-crm.org)) is as telling of the limited role and/or visibility historians currently have in CRM as the two NCPH surveys mentioned above. Various subgroups of archaeologists account for 56% of the respondents to ACRA's survey. Architectural historians, architects, preservation planners, and others working with historic structures account for a total of approximately 25%. Only 9% of respondents identified themselves as historians. With history (and historical significance) so crucial to the field, why isn't the CRM industry clamoring to recruit historians and balance their numbers with other members of the CRM "team"?

"History" is obviously inherent to the history and public history fields. Curiously it seems that CRM may need a reminder of its relevance to that field. "Significance" is among the core principals behind CRM work. On a most basic level, history is the reason architectural, structural, cultural landscape, and archaeological resources are significant. A resource's significance (setting aside issues of integrity and direct reference to the National Register) hinges on its relationship to past events, developments, people, and their average and extraordinary accomplishments. What is it that these resources convey to us, if not history? Further, if not for the value placed upon gaining knowledge, understanding, and appreciation for the manner in which past generations lived, worked, and played there would be no reason to identify, let alone protect, the physical evidence of their lives extant today.

CRM is an industry comprised of professionals dedicated to promoting the protection of significant resources because we understand the value of them. Material culture and the built environment (whether found above or below ground [or under water]) are important to us primarily because they are the research tools we use

to study, appreciate, and promote history. Assuming that history (historical significance in its many forms) lies at the root of a resource's value, it is logical to say that history also lies at the root of various issues currently on the "priority list" of the CRM field, ranging from the creation of contexts to the protection of legislation including Section 106 and Section 4(f). So why is there such a schism between CRM and historians?

The knowledge, methodology, and experience of historians are as fundamental to CRM as that of archaeologists, architectural historians, and others. Although respect and recognition must be extended from all directions, I challenge the CRM industry to think about the crucial role historians have in the field and to strengthen the visibility of these individuals as both professionally-trained historians and CRM practitioners. CRM is an interdisciplinary industry, an advantage that should provide it with a head start in that endeavor.



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## US Fish and Wildlife Service Modifies ARPA Permit Procedures

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has modified its procedures for archeological and historic research permits issued under the Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA).

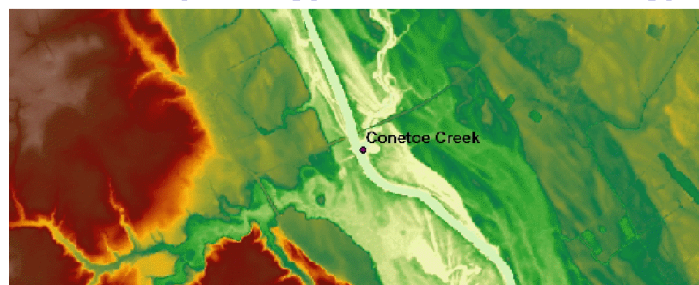
Beginning in 2005, all ARPA permit holders must furnish a performance bond. The bond will secure all obligations imposed by the terms and conditions of the ARPA Permit. Bond amounts may vary depending on the size and complexity of the proposed research project. The premiums for bonds will also vary slightly, but they typically average 3% of the bond amount. Bonds are readily purchased through commercial Surety and Fidelity bond companies. Applicants for ARPA permits will be given additional information when their application is received.

The bond requirement applies only to archeological research proposed on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands in your state. Archeological, historical, architectural, and environmental firms and businesses who conduct contract consultation studies to help clients meet federal historic preservation compliance requirements will not need to furnish a bond. Also, archeological, historical, architectural, and environmental firms and businesses under contract to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will not need to furnish a bond.

Applications for ARPA permits for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands in Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas are sent to:

Regional Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 1306

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# ACRA

## EDITION

6150 East Ponce de Leon Ave., Stone Mountain, GA 30083

### ACRA's Members-Only Listserver

ACRA now has an online discussion group just for members. "MembersOnly" is a listserver that operates much the same way as ACRA-L, with the exception that it is only available to ACRA members. Its purpose is to offer the board, members, and the executive director a venue to share the latest news from ACRA; promote dialogue between members on current issues; and enable members to post announcements or inquiries.

To subscribe to the list, a member must contact ACRA's Executive Director, Tom Wheaton. Once you have supplied Tom with your e-mail address, he will subscribe you to this list. Contact Tom at 770-498-5159 or e-mail: [tomwheaton@newsouthassoc.com](mailto:tomwheaton@newsouthassoc.com).

### 2005 ACRA EDITION SCHEDULE

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#### ACRA Edition

is a bi-monthly publication of The American Cultural Resources Association. Our mission is to promote the professional, ethical and business practices of the cultural resources industry, including all of its affiliated disciplines, for the benefit of the resources, the public, and the members of the association.

This publication's purpose is to provide members with the latest information on the association's activities and to provide up-to-date information on federal and state legislative activities. All comments are welcome.

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