

Pamela Bompert Receives the 2023 MAS Conservation Archaeology Award

The Conservation Committee of the Montana Archaeological Society (MAS) nominates Pamela Bompert of Jefferson City, Montana, for the 2023 Conservation Award. Pamela Bompert was first exposed to archaeology in 1950 when Carling Malouf approached Pamela's step-father, James Bompert, about conducting archaeological investigations at the MacHaffie site (24JF4) located on property Mr. Bompert owned. Mr. Bompert recognized the site's importance and provided access for archaeological work to begin in 1951. Richard G. Forbis conducted the 1951 investigative work and the findings became the subject of his doctoral dissertation (Forbis 1955). Pamela recalls visiting Forbis' excavation and from that experience developing an understanding of the national significance of the MacHaffie site. Intermittently she would identify archaeology on the landscape—some of which has since been destroyed through various developments. It was clear to her that Montana's archaeological resources are slowly but increasingly disappearing.

David Schwab (1986) nominated the MacHaffie site to the National Register of Historic Places and it was formally listed on April 3, 1986. Subsequently, Leslie B. Davis, a student of Richard Forbis at the University of Calgary, desired to re-examine the MacHaffie site. His meeting with Pamela to discuss his academic interest developed into a stronger personal connection. As fate would have it, Ms. Bompert would later marry Dr. Davis and remain enveloped in the world of archaeology. Davis conducted intermittent investigations at the MacHaffie site from 1989 until 2010. Compounding health issues and his passing in 2014 prevented him from completing his work.

A comprehensive study of the MacHaffie site (Rennie et al. 2022) may not have occurred but for Pamela's vigilance, sound judgment, persistence, encouragement, and generosity. Ms. Bompert funded much of the specialized analyses for the MacHaffie research project from 1989 through its completion in 2018. She subsequently donated the cultural material recovered from the MacHaffie site to the University of Montana Anthropological Curation Facility to consolidate those pieces as a single research collection. An unprecedented mark of her generosity was the donation of the MacHaffie site to the Archaeological Conservancy in an effort to protect the site from vandalism and future housing development (Davis 2009). MacHaffie is the first and only Montana archaeological resource donated to the Archaeological Conservancy.

Pamela continues to be involved with the MAS and has donated numerous curios, artwork, and books of Les Davis' to MAS auctions over the past ten years for fund raising opportunities. She has also made substantial monetary donations for continued support of MAS activities. Although many people have an interest in archaeology, Pamela Bompert has made contributions that have

resulted in meaningful comparative research and resource preservation. The Montana Archaeological Society is grateful for her interest and efforts.

References Cited

Davis, Leslie B.

2009 Landowner Donates Ancient Paleo-Indian Site. *American Archaeology* 13 (3): 46-7.

Forbis, Richard G.

1955 The MacHaffie Site. Dissertation prepared in partial fulfillment of Ph.D. requirements, Columbia University, New York.

Rennie, Patrick J., Edwin Mohler, John P. Albanese, Jr., Cynthia Riley Augé, Linda Scott-Cummings, Leslie B. Davis, James K. Feathers, and T. Weber Greiser

2022 Revisiting the Ancients: A Natural and Cultural History of the MacHaffie Archaeological Site (24JF4). Independent research report on file with the senior author.

Schwab, Dave

1986 National Register Nomination for the MacHaffie Archaeological Site (24JF4).

Nomination drafted by Dave Schwab, Montana State Historic Preservation Office,

Helena, MT. Document dated January 3, 1986 and certified on February 2,

1986. The MacHaffie site was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on

April 3, 1986.

