



THE CONSORTIUM FOR THE BETHSAIDA EXCAVATIONS PROJECT

Membership Information

I. The History of the Project

Et-Tell is a mound approximately 20 acres in size, situated some two kilometers on the north coast of the Sea of Galilee in Israel. In 1838 Edward Robinson followed the German traveler Sietzen and identified this mound with Bethsaida, mentioned in the New Testament and by Josephus Flavius. During 1880 it was visited by the German archaeologist Gottlieb Schumacher who suggested another site closer to the sea shore as Bethsaida, and Et-Tell as Julias. It was not until 1987 that the problem of identification of Bethsaida was solved when Dr. Rami Arav launched his first excavations season at all the contenders and discovered that Bethsaida should be identified with Et-Tell.

The Golan Research Institute and the University of Haifa sponsored the first four seasons (1986 – 1990) and since the 1991 season, the excavations have been sponsored by the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO).

The Consortium of the Bethsaida Excavations Project (CBEP) was organized in 1991, with UNO administrating the Project. The Israeli base of operations was Kibbutz Gadot in Galilee, until 1994, at which time it was moved to Kibbutz Ginosar on the Sea of Galilee. In 1994 the ministry of tourism in Israel sponsored an extended period of excavations that ended in a restoration season during 1996-98, which consequently led to the opening of the site to tourism on March 25, 1998.

The Consortium maintains a pottery restoration lab, offices and storage at Beit Alon, located at Kibbutz Ginosar. The storage rooms contain the excavation material which has not yet been published. Published artifacts were shifted to Israel Antiquities Authority.

II. The Consortium's Research Objectives

Our mission is to excavate the ancient city of Bethsaida, research the remains and finds, and disseminate the results to both academic and popular audiences.

The Bethsaida Excavation Project is a multidisciplinary research project which involves historical, social and hard sciences alike. The research involves the following disciplines:

- Archaeology, specialized in the Southern Levant and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Greco- Roman archaeologists, Roman Provincial archaeologists, maritime archaeologists, numismatics, ancient glass experts, pottery experts, ancient glyptic art experts, lithic experts, epigraphers.

- Geology, Geography, geomorphology, geophysics, chemistry, physics, carbon 14 analysis and other branches of archaeometry
- Historians specialized in the Ancient Near East, Ancient Greece and Rome, ancient Judaism, Biblical scholars.
- Zooarchaeologists and archaeobotanists
- Architects and draughtsman
- Restoration, preservation and reconstruction experts
- Computer science experts
- Photographers and artists

III. Educational Program

The CBEP provides an educational program within which the excavation project operates. The program is built on two units of three-week excavation sessions. Most seasons begin in the month of May and end in early July. The daily schedule of each session includes the following:

- 5:30 departure from Kibbutz Ginosar to the site
- 9:00-9:40 breakfast
- 11:00 – 11:15 break
- 12:30 – return to the kibbutz Ginosar
- 1:00 lunch
- 4:30 – 7:00 lab works, sorting cataloguing and studying the finds
- 7:00 – 8:00 dinner
- 8:00 – 9:00 lecture

Work Stations at the dig

Students participating in the educational program assume to take part in the work stations assigned at the dig. The Work Stations are as follows:

- Excavation loci, students learn how to excavate at the assigned loci.
- Surveying Station, students learn how to operate surveying equipment and help surveying.
- Field Diary, Students learn how to record and maintain a Field Diary.
- Technical Section drawing, students learn how to draw sections and ground plans.
- Photography, students learn elements of archaeological photography.
- Conservations, students learn elements of conservations.
- Preparing finds for analysis, that includes washing and initial sorting.
- Sorting, classifying, recording and cataloguing finds, students learn elements in pottery analysis.

Camp site: is located at Kibbutz Ginosar Inn, 5 miles north of Tiberias.

Each room is equipped with air-conditioning, small kitchenette, free coffee and tea. There are four tiers of accommodation. Room rates vary according to each tier.

- Dormitory
- Triple in a room

- Double in a room
- Single in a room

The educational program fees include room and full board, transportation at each session from the airport and transportation to and from the site. Weekend field trips are offered at extra cost.

IV. *The CBEP Financial Support*

Funding for CBEP derives from the following resources:

- Consortium membership fees
- Students and volunteers participation fees
- Private and public donors
- Fund raising drives
- Scholarships and grants

The CBEP Board of Directors encourages its members to solicit financial support for the project and to establish a fund in each institution.

V. *Board of Co-Directors*

A Co-Director is a faculty member officially representing an educational institution and whose university has paid the Consortium fee. Co-Directors and staff correspond through the Project Coordinator or directly to one another regarding excavation matters. Each Director is responsible for raising his/her own funds and groups. CBEP encourages members to establish endowments for the Project at various institutions for the purpose of faculty or student research and belong to the member institution. Each Co-Director is responsible for disseminating the information for the summer excavations and may participate in planned academic seminars at the regional, national, or international conferences planned by the CBEP.

VI. *CBEP Annual Meetings*

The Board of Co-Directors and associated staff meet every November at the Clifton Batchelder Conference for Biblical Archaeology, at UNO. Scholars discuss and present the research and finds of the previous season and plan for next year's excavation.

The Board of Co-Directors,

Dr. Rami Arav, Director of Excavations and Research, CEO of the Board, University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO)

Dr. Richard A. Freund, Program Director, University of Hartford

Dr. John F. Shroder, Jr., Chief Geologist, UNO

Dr. Heinz-Wolfgang Kuhn, University of Munich, Germany

Dr. John T. Greene, Michigan State University

Dr. Frederick Strickert and Dr. Walter Bouzard, Wartburg College

Dr. Mark Appold, Truman State University

Dr. Elizabeth McNamer, Rocky Mountain College

Dr. Gordon Brubacher, Messiah College

Dr. Denny Clark and Dr. Mark Smith, College of Idaho

Dr. Carl Savage, Drew University
Dr. Ilona Skupinska-Lovset, University of Lodz, Poland
Dr. Stanley Udd, Grace University
Dr. Nicolae Roddy, Creighton University

Area Specialists, Supervisors and Associates

Dr. Monika Bernett, University of Munich
Ground Penetrating Radar: Dr. Harry Jol, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Mapping: Dr. Philip Reeder, University of South Florida
Physics: Dr. Robert Shuster, UNO
Tomography: Paul Bauman, Komex International, CANADA
Small finds analyst: Baruch Brandl, Antiquities Authority of Israel
Conservation: Orna Cohen, Jerusalem
Pottery Restoration: Charleen Green, Drew University, Bernie Trams
Numismatics: Dr. Arie Kindler, Tel Aviv, Donald Ariel IAA
Artist: DreAnna Hadash, UNO
Zooarchaeology: Toni Fisher, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
Coordinator / Archivist: Stephen Reynolds, UNO
AutoCAD: Christina Etzrodt
Director of the CBEP board in Austria: Friedrich Schipper

Institutional Consortium Members - Class of 2008

University of Nebraska at Omaha
University of Hartford
University of Munich
Rocky Mountain College
Drew University
Grace University
College of Idaho
Western Missouri State University
Wartburg College
Truman State University

Deadline to enter the 2009 Consortium is March 31st, 2009

VII. Conferences

- The CBEP sponsors an annual conference called: The Clifton Batchelder Conference for Biblical Archaeology. The conference meets at UNO during the Fall semester. The CBEP encourages its members to present papers at the conference.
- The CBEP encourages its members to arrange sessions in the regional, national and international meeting of SBL and ASOR.

VIII. *Book Publications*

(Articles in academic and popular journals are too numerous to be mentioned here)

- Rami Arav and Richard A Freund, *Bethsaida: a City by the North Shore of the Sea of Galilee*, Truman State University Press, volumes 1 (1995); 2 (1999); 3 (2004)
- Frederick Strickert *Bethsaida: the home of the Apostles*, 1998
- M. Bennett and O. Keel, *Mond, Stier und Kult am Stadttor, Die Stele von Bethsaida (et-Tell) (Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis 161)*, Friburg Goettingen, 1998
- Ilona Skupinska-Lovset, *The Temple Area of Bethsaida*, Lodz, 2006.

IX. *Consortium Members Benefits*

1. Faculty who arrange a group of eight students (or more) have their room and board paid for by the CBEP.
2. Membership in the CBEP presently is \$2,000 per year (2008) per institution. This membership entitles the representatives of the member institution to participate in the annual meeting and to a vote on the Board of Directors.
3. Membership in the CBEP entitles a full access to Bethsaida databases, including the digital database ArchBang, manual field diaries, reports, maps, ground plans, and photographs.
4. Co-Directors will be compensated with a \$500 honorarium for evening lectures at Bethsaida.
5. The member institution and its representatives will appear in all CBEP publications produced by the CBEP.
6. Special 25% discounted rates for purchase of research volumes, videos, and other products.
7. The Board of Directors recognizes the recording of the title: *Co-Director in the Board of Directors of CBEP* on their CV's.

X. *Ambassadors*

A position of Ambassador is attained by individuals who participate in the dig for more than five times. Ambassadors will be entitled for an upgrade in lodging at Ginosar for two years.

Contact Information:

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