2015 Annual Workshops in Archaeology Program

The Archaeology Section of The State Museum of Pennsylvania invites you to attend the annual Workshops in Archaeology on Saturday, November 14, 2015. This program is designed to provide the general public with an overview of archaeological discoveries across the commonwealth. This year’s theme is “Weed Seeds to Garden Seeds: The Archaeology of Farming in the Keystone State.”

In the eastern United States, Native Americans began to experiment with the domestication of plants almost 6,000 years ago. Many of the plants that we customarily see as common garden weeds are oily and starchy foods that were cultivated, harvested and eaten by Indians. The Eastern Agricultural Complex includes weeds and other plant parts that have been preserved in archaeological contexts. It is not known for certain if plants were actually domesticated or intensively gathered in the wild, but a dependence on them as food had a significant effect on the culture of these people. This dependence increased and by 1,000 years ago, maize was added to the diet and domesticated plant food subsistence of Native Americans in Pennsylvania. The presenters will provide data from the archaeological record that documents the contributions these foods provided to the evolution and development of farming in native and contemporary societies. Lastly, we will consider how our need to increase agricultural production for an ever-increasing population might impact and shape future farming practices.

In addition to the presentations, attendees can share their archaeological discoveries with staff from the Bureau for Historic Preservation who will provide assistance with artifact identification and recording archaeological sites, an essential task for protecting and preserving our archaeological heritage. An additional offering includes a demonstration by a master herb-hopper who will make some tea using Native American techniques. A reception at the close of the sessions will provide an opportunity for the attendees to meet with the presenters and museum staff in the Anthropology and Archaeology Gallery of The State Museum.

Session Descriptions

9:00 a.m.-9:10 a.m. Opening Remarks – David Dunn, Director, The State Museum of Pennsylvania

9:10 a.m.-9:50 a.m. [Session 1] Eastern Agricultural Complex and the Three Sisters

Dor Ann Wynner
Bloomington University of Pennsylvania

Schoolchildren are often taught about the Three Sisters (maize, squash and beans) as the main agricultural crops of Native Americans in the eastern woodlands, but few are familiar with the indigenous crops that were grown long before the famous trio became staples. The Eastern Agricultural Complex, one of the independent centers of plant domestication in the world, included a unique mix of the branny high-carbohydrate species, oily high-protein taxa, and a set of totally important plants (such as tobacco). These crops, domesticated from indigenous weeds, formed the basis for the remarkable early moundbuilder cultures. This set in motion the intricate interplay of ancient populations with their environment and built landscape, and ultimately led to the field agriculture observed during the Contact period.

9:50 a.m.-10:30 a.m. [Session 2] Late Woodland to Contact Period Farming Societies in the Upper Ohio Valley

Mark A. McCounaghy
Regional Archaeologist, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Native American adoption of intensive maize agriculture for subsistence occurs during the Late Woodland/Late Prehistoric period in western Pennsylvania, dating from roughly 500-1000 years ago. This gave rise to village-based societies collectively called the Monongahela in southwestern Pennsylvania and McFar and Meade Island in northwestern Pennsylvania. However, most of our information about maize agriculture from Western Pennsylvania comes from Monongahela sites. Squash and gourds were part of the agricultural development and were grown long before maize horticulture started in Pennsylvania. Later additions to their diet included beans and sunflowers, and although not a food crop, tobacco was cultivated for use in various ceremonies.

10:45 a.m.-11:25 a.m. [Session 3] Late Woodland to Contact Period Farming Societies in the Susquehanna Valley

Christina Rich
Archaeologist, New York State Museum

The use of both weed seeds and cultigens was important to the Native peoples of Pennsylvania. Recent archaeological research has provided new information about the ways in which plants were used, their relationship to pro-Contact settlement, and timing of the appearance of such plants in the Susquehanna Valley. This talk will provide a summary of our current understanding of plant use in the Susquehanna Valley and how the use of weed seeds and cultigens influenced the settlement patterns of these groups during the Late Woodland and Contact periods.

11:25 a.m.-11:45 a.m. Questions and discussion

Lunch on your own – See boxed lunch options.

1:15 p.m.-2:00 p.m. [Session 4] Late Woodland to Contact Period Farming Societies in the Delaware Valley

Michael Stewart
Temple University and New Jersey Historic Preservation Office

The use history and importance of domesticates to native peoples is inferred from analysis of the archaeological evidence and shifts in community and settlement patterns that may be linked to farming. Maize is found throughout the Delaware Basin between 900 AD and 1000 AD, but first appears in the Upper Delaware during the time from 800 to 890 AD. Squash/pumpkin may also be in use at this time, but the evidence is unclear. Maize, and perhaps squash/pumpkin, is originally gained as a result of interactions with groups in central and northern New York and southern Ontario. Beans are present in the archaeological record after 1300 AD. The use of domesticates varies within the region, having little importance to groups in the Lower Delaware Valley. Bioarchaeological evidence indicates a greater reliance on maize than might otherwise be inferred.

2:00 p.m.-2:40 p.m. [Session 5] Late Woodland to Contact Period Farming Societies in the Potomac Valley

Justin McKnight
Archaeobotanical Consultant

The Potomac River Valley encompasses a diverse cultural landscape. The history of farming throughout the watershed during the Late Woodland and Contact periods is similarly nuanced. This presentation summarizes the transition to food-growing across the region and focuses more specifically on the role of maize reliance and agricultural intensification in shaping Native communities. The current picture draws heavily on well-organized floral data from Maryland and Virginia (from the Chesapeake Archaeobotanical Database project [CHAD]), highlights floral assemblages from the Upper Potomac Valley, and contributes to our understanding of broader agricultural traditions in Pennsylvania.
**2015 ANNUAL WORKSHOPS IN ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM**

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  Registration (Foyer to the Auditorium)

9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.  Opening remarks - David Dunn, Director, The State Museum of Pennsylvania

9:10 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.  Session 1  Eastern Agricultural Complex and the Three Sisters - Dee Ann Wymer

9:50 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  Session 2  Late Woodland to Contact Period Farming Societies in the Upper Ohio Valley - Mark A. McConaughy

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  Break (Foyer to the Auditorium)

10:45 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.  Session 3  Late Woodland to Contact Period Farming Societies in the Susquehanna Valley - Christina Rieth

11:25 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  Questions and discussion

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  Lunch (on your own) See boxed lunch options.

1:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  Session 4  Late Woodland to Contact Period Farming Societies in the Delaware Valley - Michael Stewart

2:00 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.  Session 5  Late Woodland to Contact Period Farming Societies in the Potomac Valley - Justine McKnight

2:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  Break (Foyer to the Auditorium)

3:00 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.  Session 6  Pennsylvania’s Rural Farming Societies 1760–1930’s - Ken Basalik

3:40 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.  Session 7  Navigating a Critical Juncture - David Mortensen

4:20 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  Closing Comments - questions and discussion

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  Social in the Hall of Anthropology and Archaeology

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**Additional Programming**

**Flintknapping Demonstration (Auditorium Foyer)**

Steve Nice

This presentation will feature an expert flintknapper who will demonstrate how stone tools were made during the Prehistoric and Contact periods in Pennsylvania.

**Artifact Identification (Susquehanna Room)**

Doug McLean, Chief, Archaeology & Protection and Kira Heinrich, Bureau for Historic Preservation

These individuals have over 50 years of combined experience with archaeological artifacts. Bring in your historic or prehistoric artifacts for identification and analysis by the experts.

**Site Recording in Cultural Resources Geographic Information System, (Susquehanna Room)**

Noel Straus and Tony Held, Bureau for Historic Preservation

Recording of archaeological sites is an essential task in protecting and preserving our archaeological resources. Assistance in recording your archaeological sites will be provided by these qualified individuals.

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**Workshop Registration Form**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Registration Fee:</th>
<th>$25.00 Early Registration (Nov. 6) $15.00  Student Registrant Name(s) Affiliation, if any Learn more at Workshops in Archaeology The State Museum of Pennsylvania 300 North Street Harrisburg, PA 17120-0024</th>
<th>Total Amount Enclosed:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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**Boxed Lunch Option; must preorder and pay in advance.**

Option #1: Wrap  Whole wheat - American cheese.

Turkey & parmesan garlic spread

Ham & honey mustard spread

Option #2: Kaiser roll - American cheese.

Turkey & provolone cheese spread

Ham & pepper jack cheese spread

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**Additional Information**

- Breaks: 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., 2:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Lunch (on your own) See boxed lunch options.
- Registration at Door $35.00
- No Discounts at Door

**Contact Information:**

- Registration Fee: $25.00 Early Registration (Nov. 6) $15.00  Student
- Affiliation, if any
- Registrant Name(s)
- Phone (home) (Work)
- Mailing Address
- Email

Mail it and your check made payable to Pennsylvania Archaeological Council (PAC) to:

Workshops in Archaeology

The State Museum of Pennsylvania

300 North Street

Harrisburg, PA  17120-0024

Register by completing the attached form. Mail it and your check made payable to Pennsylvania Archaeological Council to:

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