Michigan Archaeology Day 2013

Saturday, October 12th
Downtown Lansing
11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Michigan Historical Center
Welcome to Michigan Archaeology Day 2013

We have lots of activities planned that will show you the cool projects Michigan archaeologists have been working on. In the Forum auditorium, archaeologists will be giving presentations about their projects. On the second floor of the museum, archaeologists from around the state have set up displays of artifacts from different archaeological sites, ranging from downtown Detroit, to the Straits of Mackinac, to the bottomlands of Lake Huron. Kids will love the hands-on activities, and everyone can try throwing a spear using an atlatl. So walk through the galleries, have a seat in the Forum, make a clay pinch pot—please ask lots of questions—and have fun!

PRESENTATIONS

Forum, 11:00 am–3:00 pm
Introductions by Dr. Dean Anderson, State Archaeologist

11:00 am

The Clunie Site: A Late Prehistoric Site in the Saginaw Valley
Presenter: Jeffrey D. Sommer, Curator of Archaeology at the Historical Society of Saginaw County, Inc.

Situated along the Tittabawassee River in Saginaw County, the Clunie site is one of only a handful of locations where archaeologists have found evidence left by the Late Prehistoric Native American inhabitants of the region. Excavations conducted by the Historical Society of Saginaw County have revealed artifacts, food remains, cooking hearths, storage pits, and trash deposits. These items provide a glimpse of day-to-day life and hints of a not-too-distant European presence.

Noon

Unearthing Detroit: Recent and Ongoing Research by Wayne State University Archaeologists
Presenters: Dr. Thomas W. Killion, Associate Professor of Anthropology; Dr. Krysta Ryzewski, Assistant Professor of Anthropology; and Brenna Moloney, Doctoral Student in Anthropology

Wayne State University’s archaeologists will present and discuss recent findings from their work on several significant historical period archaeological sites in Detroit, including Roosevelt Park and the Workers’ Row House in Corktown, the Speakeasy Project, and a new collections-based and community archaeology initiative at the university’s Grosscup Museum of Anthropology.
Pre-contact Copper Mining on Isle Royale and in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula
Presenter: Seth DePasqual, Cultural Resource Manager, Isle Royale National Park

Copper in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula and on Isle Royale has been mined extensively and almost continuously beginning as early as 7,000 years ago. As larger scale mining began in the 1840s, it was guided less by technology than by the presence of Native American diggings found on site. Although small in scale compared to modern mining methods, the early diggings were numerous as reflected by the variety of copper implements found in archaeological sites throughout the Midwest. This presentation will focus on the early use of copper among Native Americans, paying note to regional lore, mining history, and archaeological research findings.

2:00 pm

The Great Storm of 1913
Presenter: Wayne Lusardi, Maritime Archaeologist, Department of Natural Resources and Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

This November marks the 100th anniversary of the Great Storm of 1913 when more than a dozen ships and nearly 300 mariners were lost in the Great Lakes. Many of the ships have been found, though few have been archaeologically documented. This presentation will provide an overview of the individual vessels, their struggle in the storm, how and where they ultimately succumbed to the waves, and what remains of the ships today.

DEMONSTRATIONS

11:00 am–3:00 pm

Archaic Hunting Skills, Front Lawn
(Between the parking lot and the front entrance)
Presenter: Mike Mauer, Michigan Archaeological Society

Practice hitting a deer target using darts and an atlatl (spear thrower) like those used in Michigan forests thousands of years ago.

Flintknopping, Museum, 2nd Floor
Presenter: Bob Love, Michigan Archaeological Society

• How did people hunt and butcher game before there were guns and steel knives?
• How did they tan hides or chop down trees using only tools made of bone and stone?
• Watch how people made stone tools to get the job done.
ARCHAEOLOGY INFORMATION STATION

11:00 am–3:00 pm

Ist Floor Museum Rotunda

Archeology Day Information
and 2013 Michigan Archaeology Poster Pick-up
(There is an additional table in the 2nd floor gallery.)

Michigan Archeological Society, Conference on Michigan Archaeology,
and State Historic Preservation Office
Dr. Michael Hambacher

Michigan Department of Transportation Archaeology
Chris Stephenson and Dan Lauterbur

Michigan Historic Preservation Network
Elaine Robinson and Dr. Denice Blair

Archaeology and Historic Preservation Law
Scott Grammer, Esq., MSHDA Legal Affairs, and Amanda Wetzel, Graduate Student, Eastern Michigan University Historic Preservation Program

Isle Royale National Park
Seth DePasqual

KIDS’ ACTIVITIES

11:00 am–3:00 pm

Ist Floor Museum Time Lab

Mock Excavation: Look for pieces of the past in a mock excavation and learn how archaeologists document sites. Excavations begin every half hour. Be sure to pick up your kids’ activity book!

Artifact Investigation: Can you tell a celt from an adze?
Learn how to identify artifacts that archaeologists find while excavating.
Adrienne Daggett, Michigan State University Museum and Campus Archaeology Program
Pinch Pot Making: Practice making pottery much like people did a thousand years ago.
Dr. Chris Espenshade, Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group, Inc.
(Our thanks to Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group for donating the materials.)

Michigan Copper: Take a closer look at some of Michigan’s native copper.
Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society

EXHIBITORS

11:00 am–3:00 pm

2nd Floor Museum Galleries

Artifacts from the Michigan Archaeological Society
Don Simons, Michigan Archaeological Society

Archaeology at Mackinac
Dr. Lynn Evans, Mackinac State Historic Parks

Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project
Western Michigan University

Identifying Military Artifacts
Eric Perkins, Michigan Historical Museum

Native Copper
Dr. John R. Halsey, State Archaeologist (Retired)

Underwater Archaeology of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Wayne Lusardi, Department of Natural Resources and Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Great Lakes Underwater Technology
Dr. Mark Gleason, Alpena Community College and West Michigan Underwater Preserve

Nautical Archaeology Society Program
Dr. Mark Holley, Northwestern Michigan College

Warner Sesquicentennial Farmstead
Tim Bennett, Michigan Archaeological Society
Artifacts from Sites and Farm Collections near the Headwaters of the Grand, Kalamazoo and Raisin Rivers in South-Central Michigan
Dan Wymer, Michigan Archaeological Society

The History of Saginaw as Told by a Road
Dr. Misty Jackson, Arbre Croche Cultural Resources

Results of the 2013 CMU Field School Excavations in Isabella and Emmet Counties
Dr. Sarah Surface-Evans, Central Michigan University

Apple Island Archaeology Project
Dr. LouAnn Wurst, Western Michigan University

Archaeology of Detroit
Dr. Thomas Killion, Dr. Krysta Ryzewski, Brenna Moloney and Daniel Harrison, Wayne State University

MSU Campus Archaeology Program
Kate Frederick, Michigan State University

Michigan Historical Museum Map
To Learn More About Michigan Archaeology

Visit the State Archaeologist online at michigan.gov/archaeology. From there you will find links to information about archaeological projects in Michigan, including some of the projects featured at Archaeology Day.

Join the Michigan Archaeological Society as it explores the past. There are local chapters across the state and meetings are open to the public. Many libraries carry the society’s journal, The Michigan Archaeologist. Visit the MAS website for details at miarch.org.


To Learn More About the Preservation of Archaeological and Above-Ground Historic Resources

Visit the State Historic Preservation Office at michigan.gov/shpo. From there you will find information about the National Historic Preservation Act, recognition and financial incentive programs, such as the National Register of Historic Places, the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program and the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits, that assist with the preservation of Michigan’s historic sites.

NOTICE: This public event is being photographed and/or video/audio recorded for dissemination through websites, print, and other media by the Michigan Historical Center, Department of Natural Resources, and the State Historic Preservation Office, Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

The Michigan Historical Center is part of the Department of Natural Resources. The State Archaeologist is part of the State Historic Preservation Office, Michigan State Housing Development Authority. Archaeology Day is sponsored by the Michigan Historical Center, Department of Natural Resources, and the State Historic Preservation Office, Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

The activity that is the subject of this event has been financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior. This program receives federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or age in its federally assisted programs. Michigan law prohibits discrimination on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, marital status, or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office for Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20350.

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