Michigan Archaeology Day 2014

Saturday, October 18, 2014 | 10:00am–4:00pm
Welcome to Michigan Archaeology Day 2014

Today we are showing you the cool projects archaeologists are working on right here in Michigan. In the Forum auditorium, archaeologists will give presentations about their work. On the second floor of the museum, archaeologists from around the state will display artifacts from different sites, ranging from downtown Detroit 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 auditorium, make a clay pinch pot—please ask lots of questions—and have fun!

Presentations

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

11:00am
Forty-five Years of Public Archaeology at Chippewa Nature Center
Presenter: Dr. Scott G. Beld, University of Michigan

For almost a half century, Chippewa Nature Center has collaborated with professional and avocational archaeologists in conducting a public archaeology program on its 1,200 acres along the Pine and Chippewa rivers near Midland. This program has included surveys of nature center property that looked for archaeological sites, as well as archaeological excavation at prehistoric and historic sites. This talk will describe these projects, including investigation of a prehistoric late Middle Woodland (ca. 500 A.D.) campsite, an 1820s Chippewa household and an 1830s settler’s cabin.

Noon

Grand Island Archaeology: Exploring the Prehistory and History of Lake Superior’s South Shore
Presenter: Dr. James Skibo, Illinois State University

The Grand Island Archaeological Project has been conducting research on the island since 2001. More than 200 sites have been found, and several have been intensively explored. Project archaeologists have investigated the island’s earliest inhabitants, who lived there roughly 3,000 years ago during the Late Archaic Period. They have studied sites from the Initial and Late Woodland periods, as well as Contact Period occupations and sites associated with the hotel and resort era. This presentation will review some of the archaeological work conducted on the island, focusing on three topics: the initial Archaic hunter-gatherers, the first pottery makers and the period of the first Euro-American occupation.

1:00pm

Immigrant Experiences in the Irish Enclave of Beaver Island, Michigan, 1856–1903
Presenter: Dr. Deb Rotman, University of Notre Dame

Beaver Island was a unique settlement location for Irish America during the late 19th century.
as families emigrated from Árainn Mhór, an island off the coast of County Donegal, to northern Lake Michigan. Irish immigrants were able to reproduce many aspects of their fishing and farming lifeways and establish a thriving ethnic enclave. A Mormon sect that had previously occupied the island, however, had influenced the cultural landscapes and material conditions that the Irish encountered, and the immigrants inherited that social and ecological legacy. Utilizing archaeological and historical data, Dr. Rotman explores the influences of cultural groups upon one another and the social and physical worlds that individuals inhabited, experienced and transformed on Beaver Island.

2:00pm

Nautical Archaeology in Northwestern Michigan
Presenter: Dr. Mark W. Holley, Northwestern Michigan College

Since 2007, the Underwater Archaeology Program at Northwestern Michigan College has been surveying submerged cultural resources in both America and Europe by utilizing sector-scanning sonar equipment developed by Kongsberg Mesotech (Vancouver, Canada). This presentation will illustrate the dramatic results from archaeological site surveys, the methodology of deployment and how this new equipment can contribute to the development of rapid, highly detailed underwater archaeological survey. Building on this success, the Nautical Archaeology Society (UK), in partnership with the underwater archaeology program at Northwestern Michigan College, has been conducting maritime archaeology field schools over the past four years. These courses have generated substantial original underwater research in Grand Traverse Bay and along the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Demonstrations
10:00am–4:00pm

Archaic Hunting Skills
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.

Deciphering a Fur Trader’s Camp
Presenter: Eric Perkins, Michigan Historical Center

Can you read clues of the artifacts left behind from a fur trader’s camp? Test your knowledge as you travel back to the 18th century to meet the trader and connect the archaeological clues with the objects in his camp.

Flintknapping
Presenter: Bob Love, Michigan Flintknappers and Huron Valley Chapter of the 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.

Seeds, Ships and Supper
Presenter: Dr. Laurie Perkins, Michigan Historical Center

Stop by for supper! Sit down for a re-created 19th-century repast and learn how farm women spiced up a meal. Grind seeds to make mustard and learn how clipper ships brought ingredients from all around the world to the Michigan table.
Archaeology Information Station
10:00am–4:00pm

Archaeology Day Information
Pick up your FREE 2014 Michigan Archaeology Poster
(There is an additional table in the 2nd floor gallery.)

Michigan State Historic Preservation Office Programs
Bethany Berdes

Michigan Department of Transportation Archaeology
Chris Stephenson and Dan Lauterbur

Michigan Historic Preservation Network
Elaine Robinson, Katie Kolokithas and Amara Frontczak

Conference on Michigan Archaeology and Michigan Archaeological Society
Dr. Michael Hambacher

Kids’ Activities
10:00am–4:00pm

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.

Pinch Pot Making: Practice making pottery much as people did a thousand years ago.
Dr. Chris Espenshade, Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group Inc.
(Thank you to Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group for donating the materials.)

Walk with a Mastodon: Compare your stride and height with this extinct animal and learn about hunting 10,000 years ago.
A “mammoth” photo opportunity!
Exhibitors

10:00am–4:00pm

2nd Floor Museum Galleries

The Shipwreck Pewabic and 19th-Century Salvage
Wayne Lusardi, State Maritime Archaeologist, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Dr. John Halsey, State Archaeologist (Retired)

Underwater Robotics and Shipwreck Exploration
Dr. Mark Gleason and Dr. Mark Schwartz, Grand Valley State University

WSU Research in Metropolitan Detroit and Southeastern Michigan 2013–2014
Dr. Thomas Killion, Dr. Krysta Ryzewski and Daniel Harrison, Wayne State University

Saving the Past, Promoting Progress: CRM Archaeology in Detroit
Dr. Robert Chidester, Kate Hayfield and Colene Knaub, Mannik & Smith Group Inc.

Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project
Western Michigan University Department of Anthropology

Community-based Archaeology with the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways
Shannon Martin, Ziibiwing Center

Warner Site
Tim Bennett, Michigan Archaeological Society

How Old Is That Arrowhead? Michigan Spear and Arrow Point Types and Ages
Dan Wymer, Michigan Archaeological Society

Site Collections from Saginaw County
Les Shuster, Saginaw Chapter of the Michigan Archaeological Society

Coalwood Archaeology Project
Western Michigan University Department of Anthropology

Apple Island Archaeology Project
Western Michigan University Department of Anthropology

Current Archaeological Research at CMU
Dr. Sarah Surface-Evans, Central Michigan University

MSU Campus Archaeology Program
Dr. Lynne Goldstein and Kate Frederick, Michigan State University
Michigan Historical Museum Map

1. Snack Shop
2. Museum Store
3. Archaeology Information Station
   (Including Archaeology Day information and poster pickup)
4. Forum Presentations
5. Time Lab Kids’ Activities
6. Learning Lab Kids’ Activities
7. Elevators to Exhibitors
8. Archaic Hunting Skills
9. Fur Trader’s Camp
10. Flintknapping
11. Making Mustard
12. Archaeology Day Information

*** Indicates Exhibitor Tables
1st Floor Museum Gallery

2nd Floor Museum Gallery

michigan.gov/archaeology 7
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 of 1966, 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.

Photos

Cover: Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary State Maritime Archaeologist Wayne Lusardi at the James Davidson stern section (1874–1883). Photo by Tane Casserly. All other photos: Artifacts from the Pewabic shipwreck. All photos courtesy of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

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.

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