



Maryland Department of Planning
Maryland Historical Trust

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Thursday, March 26, 2015

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Get Involved In Maryland Archeology at Twenty-Fourth Annual Archeology Workshop

Eight Presentations Scheduled for March 28 Edgewater Event

CROWNSVILLE, MD – On Saturday, March 28nd, the Maryland Historical Trust and the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc., will host their 24th Annual Workshop in Archeology. Eight presentations and workshops will be given during this public event, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 3:30 p.m.

Keynote speaker Rod Cofield, Executive Director of Historic London Town, will discuss the various ways colonial-era taverns were deeply integrated into all aspects of society. From politics to domestic life, taverns affected most everyone in early Maryland. This keynote address ties into the theme for Maryland Archeology Month in April – the archeology of tavern sites – and posters and booklets will be available to attendees.

Later in the day, participants have the option to attend four sessions. Archeologist Greg Katz will present the archeological effort to recover remnants of the earthworks built to defend Baltimore when the British threatened it in 1814. Austin Burkhard will discuss the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's pilot program to tag shipwrecks in Chincoteague, Virginia – an innovative experimental effort that combines the power of the internet, smart phones and the public to collect data. Archeologist Sara Rivers-Cofield will delve into the fascinating realm of religious faith and superstition and how these are expressed in the archeological record. Smithsonian Institution archeologist Jim Gibb will discuss the multi-year, multi-disciplinary research program examining human environment interaction along the Rhode River and how this effort can help illuminate the newly proposed geological epoch, the Anthropocene.

To close the event, archeological dynamic duo Silas Hurry and Kate Dinnel will present an overview of historical archeology in Maryland. This is a required workshop of those enrolled in the Certified Archeological Technician program, although all are welcome to attend. A presentation by Bill Utley will discuss the "Do's, Don't and Myths" of ordnance – a must for those fascinated with things that explode. Finally, for those interested in the upcoming spring field sessions at the Biggs Ford site in Walkersville – a very special site where two Native American villages overlap – the Maryland Historical Trust, The American University and the Archeological Society of Maryland will present a review and preview of current research.

The workshop will be held at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, 647 Contees Wharf Road, Edgewater, Maryland 21037. There is ample parking on site. Directions and a detailed program can be found on the Maryland Historical Trust's website: mht.maryland.gov.

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