

Fort Ancient Programs 2019

Fort Ancient Lecture Series #1

Saturday January 26, 10:30am: Dr. Amelia R Hubbard, Associate, Wright State University- *Bioarchaeology: Tracking Migrations, Biological Change, and Life Histories through the Archaeological Record*

Since the “dawn” of archaeology, human remains have been a large quantity of materials discovered at archaeological sites, yet few were regularly documented and systematically collected because they were not deemed as useful as artifacts. As such, American bioarchaeology was not legitimized in the US until the 1980s by the pioneering work of American archaeologist, Dr. Jane Buikstra. This talk reviews the history of bioarchaeology and the development of this field from more than the “study of human remains in archaeological contexts.” Using examples from her own work, Dr. Amelia Hubbard will highlight ways in which bones and teeth provide invaluable information about the movements of, interactions within and between, and stories of individuals from around the world, with broad applications to traditional archaeological research.

This program is free to the public, but general site admission applies to the museum for non-members.

Fort Ancient Lecture Series #2

Saturday February 23, 10:30am: Dr. Karla Hansen-Speer, Indiana State University- *The Original Trail Mix: Fruits, Nuts, and Grains in the Middle Woodland*

The Middle Woodland Period (200 BCE – 600 CE) in the Midwestern United States is best known for the Hopewell. However, west-central Indiana does not fit that definition well. Surrounded by Hopewell culture, yet perhaps not fully of it, the Northwood site of west-central Indiana was the focus of Indiana State University’s archaeological field school. Survey and excavation have revealed a village surrounding a plaza. The plant remains from the site give clues to the lifeways of this little-understood area. Food choices are constrained by the environment and at the same time, strongly shaped by culture. The plants used by the inhabitants of the Northwoods site were a mixture of wild and domesticated. Few of these plants are widely used today, and several types represent the “lost crops” of the Eastern Agricultural Complex.

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present an overview of the entire spectrum of wildflowers that can be found growing at Ft. Ancient throughout the growing season from the end of winter until the first frost of autumn. Dave may also point out some of the various wildlife forms that live in the wildflower habitats.

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Wild Flower Discovery Tour -Dave Woehr and other OCVN's- April 6, 2:00-4:00pm

Enjoy the outdoors on this annual spring hike with Dave Woehr, and other Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists. There will be a hike through the woods and prairie at Fort Ancient. Participants will learn about the early spring flowers and plants that are sure signs that spring is here.

General site admission applies for non-members.

Behind the Scenes- Jack Blosser- May 4, 2:00-4:00pm

This outdoor hike offers an in-depth educational overview of the history of Fort Ancient and of the people who came to ceremony, worshipped and lived in this area. Much will be shared about the terrain and physical aspects of the site as well. There will be a hands-on experience of spear throwing and the early game of double ball plus an opportunity to see the mounds and hike the trails.

General site admission for non-members.

Nature Tidbit #2

GARDENING FOR BUTTERFLIES AND HUMMINGBIRDS-June 8, 10:30am

- Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, Dave Woehr, will detail how easy it is to create a back yard for wildlife that is sure to attract hummingbirds and an array of butterflies for enjoying nature close to home.

This program is free to the public, but general site admission applies to the museum for non-members

“Rocks Talk”- Todd Stephenson, June 15, 10:30-12:00pm

There will be an introduction to fossils. What are they? How do they form? How old are they? Where can you find them? There will be a brief discussion of the geologic time and a description of the warm shallow Ordovician sea that covered this area hundreds of millions of years ago. Instruction will highlight the world class fossil beds found in the Fort Ancient and greater Cincinnati area. There will be opportunities to view, touch, and describe the fossils that are typically found in the area utilizing: magnifying glass, hand lens, microscope, posters and reference books. Resource material will be provided to highlight free publically available collecting sites in southwestern Ohio.

BIO- Todd Stephenson was born in Kings Mills, Ohio. He earned a B.S. and M.S. Degree in Geology from the University of Cincinnati. Todd is a retired petroleum geologist executive having worked 36 years in the oil and gas business with assignments in U.S., Canada, Europe, Africa and South America. He was a Boy Scout leader for many years and has been very involved in STEM educational activities in Texas and

“Glaciers Were Cool in Ohio”- Todd Stephenson- August 3, 10:30am-12:00pm

This class will touch on the topic of climate change in Ohio during its recent geologic past. The presentation will introduce the topic of glaciers and provide evidence for the presence of multiple episodes of glacial activity in Ohio (maps/landform pictures, samples, fossils, videos). There will be a short ‘CSI-like’ presentation on “The Burning Tree Mastodon” found in 1989 in Licking County, Ohio. Finally, Ohio’s glaciers had an impact on soil formation and how they directly influenced the location and construction of earthwork sites like Fort Ancient and many others found in Ohio.

BIO- Todd Stephenson was born in Kings Mills, Ohio. He earned a B.S. and M.S. Degree in Geology from the University of Cincinnati. Todd is a retired petroleum geologist executive having worked 36 years in the oil and gas business with assignments in U.S., Canada, Europe, Africa and South America. He was a Boy Scout leader for many years and has been very involved in STEM educational activities in Texas and Oklahoma. He is a member of the Dry Dredgers, a local fossil collecting club affiliated with the University of Cincinnati as well as a member of the Dayton Society of Natural History.

General site admission for non-members.

Mask Making from Natural Objects - Pam Hall –August 10, 10:30am-12:30pm

A wide variety of natural materials is made available plus participants can bring their own supplies. After viewing a diverse group of visual examples, we will speak briefly about using many sizes, shapes, and textures of objects which have personal significance to create a finished mask. These masks reflect the faces of Nature and do not reference Native mask making. Symmetrical vs. asymmetrical balance will also be discussed as we consider how the masks will take shape. This is a creative, fun hands-on activity. This activity is suited for participants from ages 8 through adult.

Online registration required.

Behind the Scenes Tour- Jack Blosser- August 10, 2:00-4:00pm

This outdoor hike offers an in-depth educational overview of the history of Fort Ancient and of the people who came to ceremony, worshipped and lived in this area. Much will be shared about the terrain and physical aspects of the site as well. There will be a hands-on experience of spear throwing and the early game of double ball plus an opportunity to see the mounds and hike the trails.

General site admission for non-members.

Teacher Appreciation Day-Bring your ID for Free Admission – August 31, 1:00-3:00pm

Participants will experience an informative orientation at 1:00pm on Fort Ancient, its 2,000 year old history, and the people who built this amazing earthwork as an astronomical observatory and ceremonial site. The goal is to show the teacher the opportunities that await them and their school children. The teachers will become the students and Fort Ancient volunteers will be on hand to take you through our wonderful educational program that is designed for grades 2-6 and 6-8. Volunteers will lead teachers through the museum with a grade appropriate scavenger hunt. There will be hands-on

Participants will explore techniques of hunting, fishing, tanning and trapping. During this presentation we will shoot bows and arrows as well as spears. Information will be given on how to set traps, tan hides and make jerky among other skills to live in the natural world. This program is open to all as there will be activities for children as well. All of the presentations will have opportunities to have first-hand experiences in doing all of these things. Participants are encouraged to dress appropriately for possible changing Ohio weather as we will be outdoors. This is ongoing throughout the afternoon.

General site admission for non-members.

Fort Ancient Fall Tour - Jack Blosser, October 12, 2:00-4:00pm

Join site manager, Jack Blosser on a two hour hike through the grounds of Fort Ancient and enjoy the changing fall colors while learning about the archaeological history of the largest and best preserved “hill top enclosure” in the United States. Walk through the same gateways as those who made this ceremonial gathering place 2,000 years ago.

General site admission for non-members.

Trees Please- Keith Bengston, October 19, 12:00-4:00pm

Participants will study forest ecology. They will learn to identify trees, measure them as well as the plot they are in. There will be a presentation of how foresters mathematically count all of the trees of a certain species in the acreage of the park, as well as what their importance is and how they are utilized. There will be much scientific information as well as hands on experience during this session.

General site admission for non-members.

Winter Solstice Sunrise Program – December 21, gates open 7:15am - 7:30 am. program

As the leaves have fallen leaving the trees bare at the end of autumn, guests will be able to clearly view the 2,000 year old earthen walls as the sun rises on the shortest day of the year. Experience the solstice as ancient people may have done during this ceremonial moment several thousand years ago.