

2023 Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archeology **Chapel Branch West (18CA270), Caroline County, Maryland** **May 19 – 29, 2023**

Welcome to the 2023 Field Session, sponsored by the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc., with the assistance of the Maryland Historical Trust and the Washington College Department of Anthropology. The information contained in this document should help make your experience enjoyable, informative, and safe.

The 2023 Field Session will be held at the Pre-Contact Chapel Branch West site. In addition to contributing to an active research program by digging, screening and washing artifacts in the field, participants will have the opportunity to learn about many aspects of archaeology through a variety of planned on-site activities and events.

What to Bring

The site is situated in a grassy lawn surrounded by suburban houses and yards overlooking the Choptank River. While trees shade much of the site, the greatest environmental threat is still from the sun. Please wear comfortable, loose clothing. Pants (not shorts) and gloves are recommended. Sturdy shoes or boots are required for protection from sharp tools. Protection from the sun should include sunscreen and a hat or other head covering, at a minimum.

Major equipment and supplies, including limited drinking water, will be provided. We prefer that participants pack a lunch to minimize off-site time and to avoid interfering with lunchtime activities, like lectures and workshops. Any tools or equipment needed will be available, but if you wish you may bring and use your own tools. Here is a list of equipment you should consider bringing:

1. Work gloves
2. Insect repellent
3. Raingear
4. Sunscreen
5. Drinking water
6. Your lunch (!!!)
7. Folding chair for lunchtime/lectures
8. CAT book if you intend to fulfill requirements for certification

Information/Sales

A combined information/sales area will be set up each day near the site. Please check in at the information table *each* day when you arrive. Some field equipment, including line levels, Marshalltown trowels, gloves, as well as special 2023 Field Session T-shirts, and a selection of books on archaeology, will be available for sale each morning.

Agenda

Fieldwork will be from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM each day with a lunch break from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. **Work will begin at 10:30 AM on the first day, Friday, May 19th.** Parking is available on an adjacent property. **THESE ARE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES - PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE AT THE SITE MORE THAN ½ HOUR BEFORE THE SCHEDULED START TIME.**

Orientation/safety lectures will be presented at 8:30 AM and 12:30 PM daily (as needed) to introduce new arrivals to the site and field procedures. Every Field Session participant must attend one orientation/safety lecture before participating in the excavation.

A field lab will be set up under a shade awning on the site with the goal of cleaning as much of the recovered material as possible. Work in the lab provides an alternative for persons wanting a break from digging, from the sun, unable to dig, or missing an orientation.

Educational Opportunities and Special Events

Evening Lecture: The Spencer Geasey Memorial Lecture will take place at the Wharves of Choptank Visitor & Heritage Center on **Tuesday, 23 May from 6:00pm – 8:00pm.** Francis Gray, Tribal Chairman of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, will be speaking about historic and contemporary Piscataway perspectives on archaeology.

Lunchtime Lectures (12:00 – 12:30, on site):

Monday 22 May: *Interpreting Indigenous Ceramics* – Ceramicist and ASM Native American Liaison, Lynne Bulhack, will provide a hands-on discussion on identifying and interpreting Pre-Contact ceramics.

Friday 26 May: *What's the Point?: Projectile Point Workshop* – State Terrestrial Archaeologist, Zac Singer, will provide a hands-on overview of Maryland projectile points.

Feast and Social:

Saturday 27 May - Annual Field Session Feast on-site at Chapel Branch West - 4:00 p.m.

CAT Survey Opportunities:

There will be opportunities for CAT candidates to earn survey hours later in the week.

CAT Workshops:

1PM Saturday 20 May - Legal and Ethics workshop

8AM Sunday 21 May - Mapping workshop

Kids Day:

Saturday, May 27, 2023 from 9am – 12pm.

Kids 6 and up welcome. **Must have an adult chaperone present the entire time.** Limited to first 10 participants. This will be a special session with extra activities specifically for children. Email esarcheology@gmail.com to sign up. Both children and adults need register for the Field Session to attend. (Kids 12 and over, with a chaperone, are always welcome to attend the field session)

Lodging

ASM will NOT be arranging for lodging at the field session. However, there are hotels available nearby in Denton, and a short drive away in Easton.

Primitive camping will be available near the site. Small tents and van-sized campers will be permitted at no charge. Please contact Stephanie Soder at 410-697-9552, or by email at stephanie.soder@maryland.gov to get on the camping list. ASM will be providing a porta-pot and a hot water field shower is available for use by campers. Campers should plan to provide their own cooking equipment (camp stove) and utensils, should they decide to prepare breakfast and/or dinner.

In case of inclement weather

Call the following work number to receive a recorded message about the field work if the weather looks bad. Zac Singer will post a notice on his outgoing voice message by 6:30am if ASM is calling off the day's events. The number to call is 410-697-9544.

Directions to the Chapel Branch West Site

Longitude Latitude for GPS: 38.910575, -75.831205

Address for GPS: 25126 Smith Landing Rd, Denton, MD 21629

The Chapel Branch West site is accessed from Maryland Highway 404 (Queen Anne's/Shore Highway) which runs from MD 50 to the Maryland/Delaware border.

From either the east or west, look for the MD 313 exit just north of Denton. Take the exit and head north on MD 313 (Greensboro Road). Smith Landing Road is approximately 1.5 miles north of the exit on the left-hand side of the road.

Follow Smith Landing Road southwest, and then west towards the Choptank River. Smith Landing Road will transition to gravel and also make a major jog to the south, but continue to follow the road and ASM Directional signage to the road's terminus. The site is to the right of the road and parking is in a field on the left. Please follow the signs to the parking area and walk across the road to the site.

Wharves of Choptank Visitor & Heritage Center is located at:

3 Crouse Park Lane
Denton, MD 21629

