

2024 Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archeology Cresap's Fort (18AG9), Allegany County, Maryland

May 31 – June 10, 2024

Welcome to the 2024 Field Session, sponsored by the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc., with the assistance of the Maryland Historical Trust, the National Park Service, and C&O Canal National Historical Park. The information contained in this document should help make your experience enjoyable, informative, and safe.

The 2024 Field Session will be held at the 18th century Cresap's Fort 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 an open hayfield. Please wear comfortable, loose clothing. Pants (not shorts) and gloves are recommended. Sturdy closed-toe 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:

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

Information/Sales:

Please check in with John Fiveash (Field Session Registrar) near the parking area each day when you arrive. If you have not paid field session fees via the on-line site or by mail, a table will set

up at the end of each day at the ballpark on Green Spring Road near the site. Please use this location (see map) to make all purchases or to pay any outstanding fees as transactions must be made off NPS property.

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 31st. Parking is available on site. **THE SITE IS GATED - PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE AT THE SITE MORE THAN 1/2 HOUR BEFORE THE SCHEDULED START TIME OR YOU WILL FIND THE GATE LOCKED.**

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 Meeting Room of the South Cumberland Library (100 Seymour St. in Cumberland) on Tuesday, 4 June from 6:00pm – 7:30pm. Dr. Matt McKnight, Chief Archaeologist for the Maryland Historical Trust, will be presenting a lecture entitled *“Hunting the Maryland Monster: the Life and Times of Colonel Thomas Cresap”*.

Lunchtime Lectures (11:30 – 12:30, on site):

Monday, 3 June: *Firearms and Other Tools of the Eighteenth-Century Potomac Frontier* with NPS National Capital Regional Archeologist Emeritus, Stephen Potter. Historical and archaeological research in the C&O Canal National Historical Park has demonstrated that a minimum of four types of tools were needed for people to live on the 18th-century Potomac frontier: a firearm of some sort, a knife, a pot or kettle, and a felling axe. Other tools were needed for their maintenance. A detailed examination of these tools is instructive to determine what parts would survive in an archaeological context.

Thursday, 6 June: An Overview of NPS Archeology with Katie Boyle, Blyth McManus, and Chris Stevens. Archeology in the National Parks is typically conducted for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Often, this entails monitoring excavation or a limited Phase I investigation with small reports to accompany the field work. At the C&O Canal, we are working with over 200 sites and thousands of artifacts collected from decades of

archeology in the park. From the existing material, we can deduce thousands of years of history of the peoples and places along the Potomac River.

Feast and Social:

Saturday, 8 June - Annual Field Session Feast at BSA Camp Potomac (5 minute drive from the site to Scout Camp Rd SE in Oldtown) – 5:00pm. BBQ and drinks provided by the City of Cumberland.

CAT Survey Opportunities:

There will be opportunities for CAT candidates to earn survey hours conducting ground-penetrating radar survey at an adjacent site later in the week.

Kids Day:

Sunday, June 2, 2024 from 10am – 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 to 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 Cumberland and LaVale.

Participants who have pre-registered for primitive camping should prepare to meet with staff at the end of the working day to travel to the campsite. Vehicles are not permitted at the site except to drop off or pick up camping equipment. In accordance with The Laurel Highland Boy Scout Council regulations, no alcohol is permitted at the camp. Contact John Fiveash via e-mail at jsfiveash@marylandarcheology.org if you have any questions.

In case of inclement weather:

State Terrestrial Archaeologist, Zac Singer, will post a notice on his email auto-response by 6:30am if ASM is altering the day's schedule.

Please send an email to: Zachary.Singer@maryland.gov and check the “Weather Statement” in the automatic email response you receive to see if fieldwork is on-time, delayed, or cancelled.

Directions to 18AG9:

Longitude Latitude for GPS: 39.539837, -78.611817

Address for GPS: Green Spring Rd SE, Oldtown, MD 21555

The Cresap’s Fort or Oldtown I Site is accessed from Green Spring Rd SE which intersects with Opessa Street not far from the site. Green Spring Rd SE runs south from Opessa St. until it crosses the Potomac River at the Oldtown Bridge to West Virginia.

Highway 51 runs south and east from Cumberland towards Paw Paw, West Virginia and Opessa Street runs parallel to it for a stretch of approximately 1 3/4 miles. From either direction, turn off of Hwy 51 onto Opessa Street and drive until you reach Green Spring Rd SE. Hwy 51 is most easily reached from Cumberland, MD, but there are also several routes over the mountains from I-68 as well.

Once you’ve reached Green Spring Road, please follow the ASM Field Session signs to the parking area. Do not stray from the marked lanes.

Map:

