

# Eighth Annual Workshop in Archaeology

Theme: *“Curation and Management of Family, Small Museum, and Organization Collections”*

Sponsored by the Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, and the John Heinz History Center

***Archaeology Day Workshop | October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 | Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village***

The theme for the 2024 Meadowcroft Workshop in Archaeology is best practices for managing and preserving small museum and private collections of both perishable and non-perishable material items for display and for long term curation. Information for individuals seeking to donate their private or group collection(s) to a curation facility will also be discussed.

***Morning Session (11:00 AM – 12:30 PM)***

**11:00 – 11:10 AM | Andrew Donovan and the SPA Workshop Moderator | Welcome and Workshop Overview**

**11:10 – 11:50 AM | Kira Heinrich, Cultural Resource Manager/Collections Manager, Christine Davis Consultants, Inc.**

**Presentation Title: *The Long Road Home: Managing the Fort Gaddis Legacy Collection Curation.***

**Abstract:** Archaeological Investigations were conducted for the Fort Gaddis archaeological site in 1974 as a field school for California University of Pennsylvania. Since shortly after that time, the resulting collection has been in storage and the information gathered from the excavation only accessible through two short articles. The National Road Corridor Heritage Area, PennWest

University, California, the Fayette County Historical Society, and Christine Davis Consultants have teamed up on a project to bring the curation of this collection into the 21st century. As CDC guides the collection from storage to its final home at the Fayette County Historical Society, the project team is learning what it takes to preserve the legacy of the Gaddis Fort site.

**11:50 – 12:30 PM** | David Burke, Archaeology Curator, State Museum, Harrisburg

**Presentation Title: *Curating Archaeological Collections at the State Museum of Pennsylvania***

**Abstract:** The State Museum of Pennsylvania, a bureau within the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, serves as the commonwealth's central repository for archaeological collections excavated and surface-collected across Pennsylvania. This presentation will provide a brief overview of the history of the museum's archaeological collections, review the museum's *Curation Guidelines* document outlining the procedures for processing artifact collections to current curation standards, and share best practices for displaying or exhibiting archaeological material. Informal and conversational questions are encouraged.

***Break 12:30-1:10 PM | LUNCH***

***Afternoon Session (1:10 – 3:30 PM)***

**1:10 – 2:00 PM** | Denise Cummins, Education Program, Bradford House Museum, Washington, Pennsylvania and Paula Anderson, Education Program, Bradford House Museum

**Presentation Title: *Establishing Collections Policy and Procedures at a Small House Museum***

**Abstract:** Cataloging a museum's or hobbyist's collection can be a daunting task, especially for novice historians and amateur collectors. Establishing a policy and devising procedures for documentation is the starting point. Implementing the process is time-consuming but necessary for good stewardship. Learning what other organizations have done will help you develop a system that works for you.

**2:00 – 2:40 PM** | Dr. Bonnie Reese, Bluefield State University, West Virginia

**Presentation Title: *Textile Preservation***

**Abstract:** Textile preservation extends the life of textile materials by preventing or slowing their degradation. Textiles, often composed of organic fibers such as cotton, wool, and silk, are particularly vulnerable to environmental factors like light, temperature, humidity, pollutants, and biological agents. This presentation focuses on preservation efforts to help minimize these risks through careful environmental controls and proper storage. Key methods include the use of acid-

free materials, and specialized cleaning processes. Each textile must be carefully assessed. These valuable techniques will help preserve our cultural heritage, as textiles often carry significant historical, social, and artistic value, making their preservation essential for future generations.

**2:45 – 3:30 PM | *Question & Answer/Conclusion***

## **PROGRAM NOTES**

## PARTICIPANTS



*Kira Heinrich* Kira has over 24 years of experience in the field of Cultural Resource Management. She has worked both for private cultural resource firms as an archaeologist and collections manager as well as for the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO) as a Historic Resource Specialist focusing on Section 106 compliance for archaeology. Kira has extensive experience with all

phases of archaeological investigation in rural, urban, and industrial settings and has completed surveys for a wide variety of projects including residential and industrial development, transportation, oil and gas, utilities, parks and recreation, and flood protection.

Kira has been with CDC since February of 2019. As a Cultural Resource Manager, she is responsible in a team environment for managing CDC's archaeological work, research, and report preparation. As a Collections Manager, Kira is responsible for the processing and curation of archaeological collections resulting from all phases of archaeological survey. Her experience in cultural resource management and knowledge of North American archaeology are essential to her success at this senior level position. In addition to her work at CDC, Kira is currently an adjunct professor of archaeology at Pennsylvania Western University, California and is the Past President of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology



*David Burke* is a curator in the Section of Archaeology at the State Museum of Pennsylvania since 2012, and has served in various positions within the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission since 2000. A graduate of Penn State University originally from Allentown, Lehigh County, he now resides in Harrisburg. In his time away from work David enjoys bicycling the region's rails-to-trails and kayaking the Susquehanna River.



*Denise Resciniti Cummins was born and raised in Washington, Pennsylvania, a few blocks from the Old Stone House that is now the Bradford House Museum. She earned her B.A. from Bethany (WV) College and completed graduate-level coursework through Pennsylvania State University, West Virginia University and Waynesburg University. Denise began volunteering at the Bradford House following her 2012 retirement from Trinity Area School District after 30+ years of teaching. Her roles at the Bradford House include: President of the Board of Directors of the Bradford House*

*Historical Association, lead docent, gift shop manager, workshop and day camp facilitator, and collections manager. A lifelong learner, she enjoys finding the story behind the history and sharing that story with others.*



*Paula Anderson has spent the last 52 years in Washington, Pennsylvania, raising her family with her husband, Jim. She earned her B.S. from California University of Pennsylvania (Penn West California) and completed graduate-level course work there. At the urging of a friend who was on the board, Paula began volunteering at the Bradford House following her retirement from Trinity Area School District in 2009, first as a docent and then as a member of the Board of Directors for the Bradford House Historical*

*Association, becoming the secretary in 2011. She has developed a great interest in helping with various programs, including outreach events, heading the garden maintenance committee, and managing the 18<sup>th</sup> c. wardrobe that is used by staff docents, Whiskey Rebellion Festival Street Theatre actors, and volunteers.*



*Dr. Bonnie Reese is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Humanities Department at Bluefield State University. She was the curator at Meadowcroft Rockshelter for 20 years working to preserve and catalog this museum's collection along with the historic collection at the Manchester Farm in Avella PA. She continues to volunteer her time preserving and cataloging*

*the historic collection at the Manchester Farm. Bonnie worked at the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organization and traveled to several local historic sites assisting with the preservation and organization of collections. She currently serves as President of the Mount Pleasant Township Historical Society. Bonnie has a love for historic textiles and enjoys reproducing handwoven coverlets on her 18<sup>th</sup> century loom.*

### **Additional Activities:**

**Artifact identification – Archaeology Room, Mon-Yough Chapter #3, Society for Penn. Archaeology**

**Archaeological Site Recording – Archaeology Room, State Historic Preservation Office Staff**

**Flint Knapping Demonstration – Monongahela Village – Steve Nissly**

**Weaving Demonstration – Visitor's Center**

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## **PROGRAM NOTES**

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