

ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH CALENDAR 2026

2026 Archaeology Month Virtual Learn at Lunchtime

The PA SHPO is continuing the popular Learn at Lunchtime series for Archaeology Month. This year we are excited to bring you a series of talks themed around the American Revolution and the 250th birthday of our country. Join us every Friday in October for a different webinar. Presentations begin at 12:15 p.m. and last approximately 20 minutes followed by a Question-and-Answer session. Registration is required to attend these free, virtual programs. You can find information about the speakers and registration below. Sign up for one or all five!

October 2, 2026: Kimberly Max Brown, PhD will present “Community Engaged Archaeology at Fort Mifflin: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Philadelphia’s Past”

Described as “one of the nation’s most neglected, unknown and unvisited historic sites,” Fort Mifflin in Philadelphia has yet to experience a systematic plan of archaeological investigation, warranted by the importance of its history. Over the course of 2 years, the Archaeology at Fort Mifflin project explored and documented the Fort with geophysics, investigated with excavation and archaeobotany the food system of the fort, identified critical historic preservation needs, and built on existing public programming.

Registration Link: <https://pa-archaeology-month-community-engaged-archaeology.eventbrite.com>

October 9, 2026: Emily Briggs will present “Locating Fort Wallace: Public Memory, Avocational Knowledge, and Archaeological Research in Western Pennsylvania”

Fort Wallace, traditionally associated with Wallace’s Mill and McGee Run in Westmoreland County, is a Revolutionary-era frontier site that remains important to local memory, avocational researchers, and public history. This presentation will discuss an emerging thesis project that uses documentary research, historic maps, GIS, oral history, and community-sourced information to better understand the Fort Wallace landscape. Special attention will be given to how archaeologists can responsibly work with local residents, collectors, and interested members of the public while protecting sensitive archaeological site information.

Registration Link: <https://pa-archaeology-month-locating-fort-wallace-registration.eventbrite.com>

October 16, 2026: Debbie Miller will present “In the Shadow of Independence: The Archaeology of Old Philadelphia”

Since its establishment in 1948, archaeology has played a central role in the research and interpretation of Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. More than eighty archaeological sites have uncovered the stories of the people who lived and worked here, from Benjamin Franklin and George Washington to the diverse communities whose daily lives and contributions shaped the nation’s founding. This presentation highlights the park’s archaeological resources and explores how decades of excavation and research have transformed our understanding of eighteenth-century Philadelphia. By uncovering the stories preserved beneath our feet, archaeology provides new perspectives on the people, places, and events that defined America’s early history while enriching how the National Park Service interprets and shares these stories with the public.

Registration Link: <https://pa-archaeology-month-in-the-shadow-of-independence.eventbrite.com>

October 23, 2026: Ben Ford will present “The American Revolution in Western Pennsylvania: Archaeology at Historic Hanna’s Town”

“The American Revolution in Western Pennsylvania: Archaeology at Historic Hanna’s Town” uses the site of Historic Hanna’s Town in Westmoreland County to explore life before, during, and after the American Revolution in western Pennsylvania. The wide range of artifacts from the site illustrate how the town was connected to local and international economies, and why the residents were early proponents of revolution. When the Revolution came home and Hanna’s Town was burned in 1782, the archaeological record also indicates how the townspeople rebuilt. This talk draws on decades of archaeological investigations by volunteers, professionals, and students. Registration Link: <https://pa-archaeology-month-the-american-revolution-in-western.eventbrite.com>

October 30, 2026: Dr. Matthew A. Kalos will present “The Archaeology and Memory of Paoli Battlefield”

This research explores the archaeology at Paoli Battlefield. Rather than examining just, the battle, Dr. Kalos applies a landscape approach that examines the cultural history, the battle, and the mnemonic legacy of the landscape. The aim of the presentation is to introduce the discipline of conflict archaeology and use Paoli Battlefield as a case study illustrating the role of conflict archaeology in examining the Revolutionary War era. Registration Link: <https://pa-archaeology-month-the-archaeology-and-memory-of-paoli.eventbrite.com>

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Program

Echoes Across the Water: Stories and Artifacts from Mercer County’s Past in Maurice K Goddard State Park on Saturday, October 3, 2026 at the Marina Pavillion. Learn about Mercer County’s history in our second annual educational event featuring historical exhibits and activities. Multiple events are scheduled: 8:30 a.m. – Walk in Penn’s Wood; 10:00 a.m. – Exhibit Tables and Activities; 1:00 p.m. Keynote Speaker Chuck Williams will present the program *Charcoal Industry of Mercer Co and Surrounding Areas*. Also Featuring Atlatl Throwing, Apple Cider Samples, Mock Archaeology Digs, Flint-Knapping, Crosscut Saw Demos, Spinning Demos, Cyanotypes, Local Storytelling and Tim’s Hotdogs Cart Food Truck. For more information goddardsp@pa.gov.

Arkhaeos Film Festival

The 14th annual ARKHAIOS Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Film Festival - Virtual Edition will take place October 12-18, 2026. It is an educational event to showcase the discovery of past cultures gained from ethnological or archaeological research and illustrated by documentary films. It is a free festival, juried competition, presenting films from around the world, lots of them for the first time in the USA! To discover more about the Arkhaeos Film Festivals of years past and present, please visit <http://www.arkhaeosfilmfestival.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/ArkhaeosFilmFestival> or contact info@arkhaeosfilmfestival.org.

Community Archaeology Day at Indiana University of Pennsylvania

The Department of Anthropology, Geospatial and Earth Sciences (AGES) at Indiana University of Pennsylvania will hold its annual Community Archaeology Day on Saturday, October 10, 2026 from 1:00-3:00 PM in IUP McElhaney Hall and adjoining lawn. Interactive displays and hands-on activities will be held on the ground floor of McElhaney Hall and outside on the lawn adjacent to the building. All are welcome at this free event for all ages! Learn about the archaeology of Indiana County and try your hand at technologies such as spear throwing, flint knapping, and crafting pottery. Enjoy interactive games and mock excavations, touch artifacts from area archaeological sites, watch artifacts print in 3D, tour our archaeological laboratories, and watch metal detection

and ground penetrating radar in action. A children's activity room for kids (and the young at heart) will include crafting pottery using indigenous methods, stenciling "cave art", wampum beading, and other fun activities for a variety of ages. For more information contact Lara Homsey-Messer at lmesser@iup.edu or ph: 724-357-2732.

Meadowcroft Archaeology Day

As part of Archaeology Month in Pennsylvania, Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village at 401 Meadowcroft Road, Avella, PA 15312, will hold its annual Archaeology Day Program on Saturday, October 3rd, 2026 from 10:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m. In addition to tours of the Rockshelter, members of the excavation team will present talks on the most recent work completed at the site including the use of LiDAR. Admission to this program includes access to the entire open-air museum. For more information about Meadowcroft, visit <https://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/whats-on/meadowcroft/>

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Allegheny Chapter #1

Monthly Zoom meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. Speaker to be announced. Please contact Sarah Neusius for more information at sraahneusius@gmail.com.

Mon-Yough Chapter #3

Holds its business meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:15 PM, in person or via Zoom. Educational programs begin at 6:00 PM and are open to the public. No meetings are held in June, July or August. CONTACTS: Phil Shandorf at busterfire007@gmail.com or John Nass, Jr. at john.nass.1813@gmail.com.

Frances Dorrance Chapter #11

Meets on the last Tuesday of the month, March through November. No meeting: June, July, August or December. Meetings are held at the Duryea Municipal Building and at the Conrail Site. CONTACT: Ted Baird – tedbaird@verizon.net

Lenape Chapter #12

Meets at 3:30 PM on the second Thursday of the month at the Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center, East Stroudsburg. Facebook: NEPA Archaeology. CONTACT: Danny Younger at dannyyounger@yahoo.com.

Forks of the Delaware Chapter #14

Meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Palmer Library Building, Easton, PA. Website: www.spa-chapter14.org. CONTACT: Erich Zeh (Chapter President) at eandzneh@aol.com.

John Shrader Chapter #21

Meets on the first Wednesday of each month April through November at 7:00 PM at the White Horse Tavern, 31 Old Philadelphia Pike, Douglasville, PA. CONTACT: Gene Delaplane at plane05@comcast.net.

Ohio Valley Chapter #22

Monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at Lutherlyn, 500 Lutherlyn Lane, Butler, PA 16001. Our speaker is Ken Burkett from North Fork Chapter #29. He will speak about *Trade on the Pennsylvania Frontier*. By 1520, European goods such as metal tools and kettles, cloth, beads, and more were reaching Native American communities across Pennsylvania as the fur and hide trade grew. This program will examine how dependence on these items shaped trade alliances, diplomacy, and frontier warfare. Examples of many early trade goods will be displayed and discussed. For further information contact Laura at deyoungl59@gmail.com.

Westmoreland Archaeological Society Chapter #23

Meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 6pm. May through October. Meetins held at 412 6th Ave. Elizabeth Pa. 15037. Facebook. Westmoreland Archaeological Society. Contact: Bob Oshnock at bob36wm100@wpa.net.

Bald Eagle Archaeological Society Chapter #24

Meets during the school year on the second Thursday of the month at the South Hills School of Business and Technology in State College. Contact: Mary Alice Grazier at margaretzer@gmail.com.

French Creek Archaeological Society Chapter #26

Meets on the second Thursday of the month, except November, from 7:00–9:00 PM. Meetings are held at 25761 Highway 408, Cambridge Springs, PA. WEBSITE: Frenchcreekarchaeology.com. CONTACT: John C. Sites at jsites@zoominternet.net.

Lower Susquehanna Archaeological Society Chapter #28

Meetings and events vary throughout the year. Most lectures and excavations are held at Blue Rock Heritage Center, Washington Boro, PA. The chapter offers citizen-scientist programs and hands-on learning opportunities. Website: www.spa28.org. CONTACT: Paul Nevin at paulnevin@aol.com.

North Fork Chapter #29

Monthly meeting on Friday, October 16, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church Education Building, Corner of Main and White Street, Brookville, PA 15825. The speaker is Walter Skrypzek, who will present the program *Hobo Art*. We've all heard the term "hobo" but most don't know about these men who often traveled by rail to find work opportunities. Hobos developed an intricate system of communicating through hobo signs in the form of engraved designs or symbols on various surfaces near small towns and around the railroad and near bridges and tunnels. This program will explore some of that history. Everyone is Welcome! Contact Ken Burkett at kenburkett@comcast.net or (814) 229-2816 or Cheryl Burkett at cherlburkett@comcast.net.

Hawk Mountain Chapter #31

Meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Hamburg Municipal Building/Police Station, Hamburg, PA. Email: spa31archaeology@gmail.com. Facebook: SPA Chapter 31 Hawk Mountain. CONTACTS: Noel Strattan at dns@telecommute.net or Roger Freed at arrow9722@gmail.com.