



NATIONAL CENTER FOR GREAT LAKES NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE, INC.
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2008 Academic Conference
“Current Research in Great Lakes Native American Culture”
April 19, 2008
John Jay Center for Learning
Portland IN 47371

Portland, Indiana. On April 19 NCGLNAC will be reviving a long tradition...an academic conference hosted by John Jay Center for Learning at their location in the newly-renovated Weiler Building in Portland. The title of the conference is “*Current Research in Great Lakes Native American Culture.*” Jay County Visitor & Tourism Bureau, Paper Clips, and an anonymous donor are additional sponsors for the conference.

Six presenters have accepted the invitation to present their current research:

- Beth McCord, Assistant Director of Ball State University’s Archaeological Resources Management Service will discuss *Ghosts of the Lenape: An Archaeological Study of Delaware Settlement along the Upper White River*. Fifteen Lenape or other Native American villages were reported along the White River between the late 1790s and 1820. To date, no verified Lenape sites have been identified archaeologically. This paper will review the Lenape occupation of the White River and discuss several potential factors affecting the discovery of sites.
- Robin McBride Scott, Smithsonian and NMAI Visiting Artist, will present *Bringing the Ancestors Home: Reclaiming the River Cane Traditions of the Ohio River Valley*. Much has been written about Southeastern river cane basketry, but none has ever included the region of the Ohio River Valley of which Southern Indiana is a part. The Indiana native peoples of the past utilized the native river cane in southern Indiana for a wide variety of uses. Cane was used as construction materials for homes, tools, weapons, musical instruments, mats and baskets. In the past, research has over-looked the vital resource material used by native peoples in this region. Traditional uses of cane and current research by Robin McBride Scott on Pre-Contact and Early Historic river cane basketry traditions will be presented.
- Daryl Baldwin II of the Myaamia Project of Miami University will discuss *myaamiaataweenki: aapoosi iilaataweenki The Miami Language: Spoken Again*. The Myaamia (Miami) language was once widely spoken throughout the lower Great Lakes region until the 19th century. By the 1960s the last remaining speakers had passed, causing the language to fall into disuse. Utilizing 250 years of language documentation, members of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma have picked up the loose threads of their linguistic and cultural fabric and have begun to weave a new future. This language and cultural revitalization movement is shaping the future by empowering a new generation of youth to aid the rebuilding process of their nation.
- Professor Mark Schurr, Chairman of the University of Notre Dame’s Anthropology Department, will present *Collier Lodge: A Nine-Thousand Year Record of Life along the Kankakee River*. The Collier Lodge site is located on the northern edge of the former Kankakee Marsh in what is now Porter County, Indiana. Before the marsh was drained in the early 20th century, it provided an abundant array of wild resources that were used by people for over 9,000 years. Over the past five summers, the University of Notre Dame and the Kankakee Valley Historical Society have conducted field work at the site to

document evidence of human use of the site beginning in the Early Archaic and continuing up through the recent past. The site is a little over two acres in size but contains a remarkably rich archaeological record of the human activities that occurred there. This talk will provide an overview of the site and highlight some of the most significant results, including the recent documentation of six Upper Mississippian features (dating to around A.D. 1400), and the discovery of a very large historic feature whose limits and function are presently unknown. The Collier Lodge Archaeological project has been conducted primarily with volunteer labor and is intended to help preserve the Collier Lodge building and interpret its setting.

- Christopher Koepfel, Administrator of the Cultural Resources Section of the Indiana Department of Transportation, will talk about *Preliminary Results of Archaeological Investigations at the Ana Lynn Site (12Ws284)* on State Road 56 near Salem, Indiana. The Ana Lynn Site (12Ws284) was first documented in 2004 during a Phase I archaeological survey for the Salem Bypass project on State Road 56. In coordination with Washington County Commissioners, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the Indiana Department of Transportation, Archaeological Consultants of the Midwest conducted a Phase II archaeological excavation that confirmed that the Ana Lynn site is significant and eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. A Phase III archaeological investigation is currently being conducted at the site, and field work will start again in the spring. So far, over 12,000 artifacts have been collected from the site, and many features have been documented. Features include post holes, hearths, and large bell-shaped pits containing pottery, corn, and deer bone. The site also contains a large, thick, dark midden (a layer of organically-rich soil containing a high density of artifacts, bone and charcoal). The preliminary results suggest that the Ana Lynn site was situated in a “frontier zone,” a place where peoples of different cultural affiliations and territories may have interacted, traded, and lived together.
- Professor Don Cochran, Director of Ball State University’s Archaeological Resources Management Service will discuss the *Earthwork Landscape of the New Castle Phase: Implications for Middle Woodland Social Organization*. Analysis of the earthworks associated with the New Castle Phase of east central Indiana reveals patterns that can be interpreted as representing elements of Middle Woodland social organization. Through a review of the existing data on earthwork sites, their contents, the arrangement of earthworks across the landscape, the interconnections between the earthworks, and comparisons with ethnographic texts, elements of Middle Woodland social organization are identified. The data suggests a society with a dual division related to both direction (north-south) and season (summer-winter). Further subdivisions (clans, lineages) within the society are suggested by the structure of earthwork distribution across the landscape. Ethnographic examples provide supporting evidence for the Middle Woodland social organization identified in the New Castle Phase.

The conference begins at 9 a.m. and concludes at 4 p.m. The presentations will run consecutively throughout the day with a 1 hour break for lunch. Cost is \$30 for early registration, \$20 for students with student picture ID, and \$35 for late and walk-in registrations. A catered lunch is included in the registration fee.

Plan to take advantage of this opportunity to hear about cutting edge research taking place right here in Indiana relating to the Great Lakes Native American people. For more information, please contact the Conference Chair: Professor Donald Cochran, Director, Archaeological Resources Management Service, Ball State University, Muncie IN 47306. Phone: 765-285-5328. Fax: 765-285-2163. Email: dcochran@bsu.edu.

National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 educational organization. The Center is composed of Native and non-Native members whose mission is to continue and preserve traditional Great Lakes Native American art, history and culture by helping pass those traditions on to Native People and by educating the general public about the importance of Great Lakes Native peoples, their art, history and culture. For more information log onto www.ncglnac.org.

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