



Summer Lecture Series 2007

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park is pleased to host the summer archeological lecture series. The following is a list of speakers and titles of topics to be presented. The weekly series will run from May 31 to June 28. The programs will be held at the park's Visitor Center at Mound City Group and begin at 7:30 PM.

May 31, 2007 **Dr. Jarrod Burks and Karen Leone, Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc**
Hopewell Neighbors in the Hinterlands of Central Ohio—Life in One of Ohio's Earliest Village Sites

The Strait site is a large (by Hopewell standards) settlement south of Buckeye Lake that was occupied sometime between A.D. 200 and A.D. 300—peak Hopewell time in most parts of southern Ohio. At this time and in areas with lots of Hopewell earthwork centers, people lived in small, scattered hamlets of one or two households. However, in the hinterlands of Ohio, away from the large Hopewell earthworks, settlement patterns were already beginning to change and people were starting to live in more densely packed villages—a trend that would continue for the next 500 years. A decade of archaeological excavations at the Strait site, a hinterland village site, concentrated on an unplowed portion of the site and uncovered portions of two houses and numerous surface refuse dumps. The mass of pottery and stone tool-making debris from Strait, along with radiocarbon dates, show that the site was occupied during peak Hopewell times, but the lack of fancy Hopewell artifacts, like decorated pottery and mica, suggest that the Strait inhabitants were only marginally involved in Hopewell ceremonial activities despite being only 20 kilometers from the Newark Earthworks. Also unique about the Strait project is the wealth of plant remains found during the excavation, including Ohio's earliest-dated tobacco seeds.

June 7, 2007 **Dr. Paul Pacheco, SUNY Geneseo**
What Happens When You Look: Ohio Hopewell Settlements on Brown's Bottom

This talk updates the results of our ongoing archaeological research on Brown's Bottom, a section of low lying floodplain located on the Harness Farm, Ross County, Ohio. Current evidence suggests that a series of classic Ohio Hopewell domestic settlements occupied the floodplain of the Scioto River. Updates in this talk include results of additional magnetometer survey, radiocarbon analyses, feature excavations, faunal and floral analyses, completion of the excavation of the large Hopewell house at Brown's Bottom #1, and the preliminary results of our 2007 excavations at a nearby, not yet named, cluster.

June 14, 2007 **Annette Erickson, Hocking College**
How Does Your Garden Grow? Plant Use and Processing at Woodland Occupations in Central Ohio

New data from various archaeological sites throughout central Ohio have lead to a more complete picture of the interrelationship between the weedy annuals often referred to as the Eastern Agriculture Complex and settled life. Investigations currently cover the period from A.D. 200 to approximately A.D. 900. A review and comparison of earlier investigations are made to evaluate the new data and present a comprehensive state of understanding of the current expression of plant utilization and processing as it applies to food remains.

June 21, 2007

Susan Knisley, Park Ranger Hopewell Culture NHP

Decoding the Past: Making Sense of Current Hopewell DNA Research

Recently, individuals from two Hopewell sites have been sampled for mitochondrial DNA: Ohio's Hopewell Mound Group in Chillicothe, Ohio and the Pete Klunk Mound Group in Illinois. Was the recovery of DNA successful from 2,000 year old samples? Does the Hopewell culture share the same genetic background as the ancient and contemporary Native North Americans? What can this research add to what is already biologically known about the Hopewell? The archeological record for Ohio's prehistoric past has been researched, analyzed, pondered and queried for nearly 200 years. Mitochondrial DNA recovery from ancient DNA is proving an especially useful tool with populations such as the Hopewell not only in tracing the genetic record but also for correlating and cross checking what is already known in the archeological record. In this lecture I will present a general summary of these recent mitochondrial DNA findings.

June 28, 2007

John W. Picklesimer, II, M.A. Gray & Pape Inc.,

Recent Investigations in the Vicinity of Shriver Circle and Mound City Earthworks in Ross County, Ohio

In 2006, Gray & Pape, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio was afforded the opportunity to complete a series of Phase I and II investigations at the Shriver Circle Earthwork (33RO347) and a small Hopewell hamlet/habitation site (33RO1090) in the vicinity of the Shriver Circle and Mound City. Both of these investigations were conducted in association with proposed road improvement projects, but both also provided intriguing information concerning the Hopewell occupation of the region.

The last professional investigations of the Shriver Circle, located to the south of Mound City was completed by Squier and Davis in the mid-nineteenth century, which consisted of the mapping of the earthwork and limited excavations of the central mound. Following these limited excavations, they concluded that the earthwork represented a defensive structure with a central sacrificial mound. Since this initial investigation, Shriver Circle was forgotten and subsequent activities in the vicinity essentially obscured any surface evidence of the site. Recent geophysical and subsurface investigations have revealed that elements of the site do remain and have provided some additional insight into this earthwork, including the construction method for the external ditch and a possible construction date for the ditch and associated embankment.

The habitation site 33RO1090, consists of an apparent Hopewell habitation located approximately 1-mile west of both the Mound City Group and Shriver Circle. Elements of this site also have been obscured by the historic occupation of the area. However, geophysical investigations and subsurface excavations revealed that significant Middle Woodland remains survived at this location. The investigations indicate the site was occupied during the early portions of the Middle Woodland period and was contemporaneous with the earliest construction activities at both of the closely associated earthwork sites.