Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference
2022 Conference Workshops
Thursday, March 24, and Sunday, March 27, 2022

Cost for each workshop is $25.00. Payment must be made at the time of registration. You must register by March 17, 2022 and be registered to attend the 2022 conference. Enrollment will be capped at 12 people for Workshops 1 and 2 and 35 for Workshop 3 and will be held at the Holiday Inn Ocean Front (Conference hotel). Contact Crystal O'Connor (coconnor@monticello.org) with registration questions.

Workshops are sponsored by the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference.

Workshop 1: "Beautiful forms and compositions are not made by chance": Learning the Basics of Ceramic Identification

Organizers: Christine Devine (The Thomas Jefferson Foundation-Monticello), Lily Carhart (George Washington's Mount Vernon), and Katelyn Coughlan (Louisa County Historical Society)
Date/Time: Thurs., March 24, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

As Josiah Wedgwood said, ceramics "are not made by chance," rather they are created under distinct technological and artistic influences and are therefore extremely useful in archaeological analysis. Yet, ceramic identification is often fraught with mistaken identification. This workshop is a "crash-course" in historic ceramics commonly found on archaeological sites across the Mid-Atlantic. Archaeologists will summarize the key characteristics and decorative styles which aid in the identification of 18th-, 19th-, and 20th-century waretypes. Ceramics from Monticello and Mount Vernon's collections will be available for hands-on identification. This is an interactive and immersive session designed to expose participants to the variety of materials they may come across in the field. Discussion will situate these ceramics in their social, economic, and political settings and highlight ways ceramics can be utilized for nuanced archaeological analysis.

To Register: You must be registered for the conference and logged in to your MAAC website account to register for the workshop. Contact Christine Devine with questions (cdevine@monticello.org).

Workshop 2: Rage Against the Machine....Made Bottles

Organizers: Mara Katkins (The George Washington Foundation)
Date/Time: Thurs., March 24, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Although they are not the most glamourous of artifacts, machine-made bottles are very 'talky' and can help date an archaeological site to within just a few years. These unassuming objects also reflect a turn towards disposable consumerism, which we continue to grapple with globally. In order to correctly identify glass objects, it is imperative to understand how they are made and also why there was and is such a demand for these items. This workshop will seek to give an overview of the technologies that go into glass manufacture with a focus on machine-made bottles. Participants are encouraged to bring any glass artifacts they'd like for identification!

To Register: You must be registered for the conference and logged in to your MAAC website account to register for the workshop. Contact Mara Katkins with questions (katkins@gwffoundation.org).

Workshop 3: An Introduction to Digging Through Archaeological Data
Organizers: Beth Bollwerk (The Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery) and Jolene Smith (Virginia Department of Historic Resources)
Time: Sun., March 27, 8:30 – 11:30 AM

This workshop will provide a high-level introduction to best practices, tools, and challenges of working with data including collecting, cleaning, managing and analysis. It will introduce the concepts of Data Lifecycles and Management plans and provide resources for successfully completing these vital components of archaeological work that ensure data are properly prepared for future sharing and reuse. We'll also review tools to clean, manage, and analyze data like OpenRefine, R and RStudio. Finally, we will discuss ethics of Open Science and Open Data. This workshop will provide practical resources for getting organized, handling messy data, and reducing common data-handling errors. We welcome participants with all levels of technical ability.

To Register: You must be registered for the conference and logged in to your MAAC website account to register for the workshop. Contact Jolene Smith (jolene.smith@dhr.virginia.gov) or Elizabeth Bollwerk (ebollwerk@monticello.org) with questions.