

a special supplement to
The Auglaize County Historical Society newsletter
May 2007

Dear Members,

The Auglaize County Historical Society has added a series of evening lectures to its upcoming program, "Ohio's American Indians: Diverse Culture, Influence, and Legacy." The public presentations will take place each evening from Monday, June 11 through Thursday, June 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the Rotary Gazebo in Harmon Park (adjacent to the historic swimming pool on Hamilton Road), Wapakoneta. Audience members should bring their lawn chairs and enjoy an hour on the banks of the Auglaize River. In the event of bad weather on a given evening, the lecture will be moved to First English Lutheran Church, Mechanic and Blackhoof Streets, Wapakoneta. The programs are free and open to the public.

The lectures and presenters are as follows:

Monday, June 11: *The Newark Earthworks: A Wonder of the Ancient World*

by Richard Shiels

Richard Shiels is an associate professor of history and history coordinator at the Ohio State University-Newark. He holds a master's degree from Yale University and a doctorate from Boston University. He was a partner in the "Discovering the Stories of Native Ohio" project. The Newark Earthworks are the official earthworks of the state of Ohio.

Tuesday, June 12:

Pickawillany: A Frontier Village on the World Stage

by Andy Hite

Andy Hite is site manager for the Piqua Historical Area of the Ohio Historical Society. Hite has worked to create programs that supplement and expand upon classroom work addressing current state educational standards. He is also coordinator of the District 7 National History Day in Ohio competition.

Wednesday, June 13: *The Ohio Shawnee Struggle Against Removal*

by Max Carter and Stephen Warren

Max Carter is director of the Friends Center and adjunct professor of Religious Studies at Guilford College, Greensboro, North Carolina. He holds a doctorate in American religious history from Temple University, where his dissertation topic was "Quaker Relations with Midwestern Indians to 1833."

Stephen Warren is an assistant professor in history at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. He is the author of *The Shawnees and Their Neighbors, 1795-1870*. He has also served as an historical consultant to the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma and the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

Thursday, June 14:

Paul Barton and Richard Zane Smith will provide an America-Indian perspective to the end the week.

Paul Barton is of the Deer Clan, from the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, and is descended from the Shawnee, Wyandotte, and Cherokee Nations as well. Barton's grandfather and he live in Wyandotte, Oklahoma, on the lands that were allotted to their ancestor James Logan during the Dawes Allotment Act 1890s. As a Faithkeeper for the Deer Clan and a member of the Seneca-Cayuga Language and Cultural Society, Barton holds weekly classes open to adults and youth to teach language, history and Longhouse Culture. Barton serves as the Environmental Director and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe.

Richard Zane Smith, a renowned potter, is an enrolled member of the Wyandot Nation of Kansas. When looking for pottery, a collector will pass right by one of Richard Zane Smith's exquisite pieces, assuming it is a finely woven basket. A quick double take clarifies what appears to be a basket is actually pottery in a form unique to the artist. Smith works in the ancient Southwestern Anasazi style referred to by archaeologists as 'corrugated ware.' This delicate and time-consuming method involves hand-rolled coils of native clay, shingle-lapped, slip-painted with multiple shades of color and fired either in an electric or adobe (wood-fired) kiln. Smith's work has appeared in numerous books and publications. His pieces are in the permanent collections of the American Craft Museum, the Philbrook Museum (Tulsa), and the Denver Art Museum. The first piece he submitted to an exhibit garnered the coveted "Best of Pottery" award at the Heard Museum's juried competition of American art.

Each of the speakers will also present at the Historical Society's Summer Teacher Institute during the day (which is not open to the public). Entitled "Ohio's American Indians: Diverse Culture, Influence, and Legacy," the five-day workshop will provide elementary and high school teachers the opportunity to work with some of the country's foremost scholars on American Indians, especially the tribes that once lived in Ohio.

The Historical Society trustees are excited that our teacher institute speakers will also make presentations for the public. We know that the subject is of keen interest to many people. And can you think of a better place to speak about the county's and Ohio's American Indian heritage than next to the Auglaize River? This will be a wonderful series of lectures and we hope that many people will make a point to attend.

The "Ohio's American Indians" project has been funded by grants from the Ohio Humanities Council, Midwest Electric Community Connections Fund, Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, and the Wapakoneta Area Community Foundation.

For more information about the lectures, please call the Historical Society, 419/738-9328. (A message will be left on the historical society answering machine June 11-14, if the lecture has been moved indoors. If there is no message, assume that the lecture will be held outside.)

Mark your calendars now as well for the Auglaize County Historical Society's summer picnic. We have a very special place in Auglaize County selected for this members' only event. More details will be provided in the next newsletter.