

**Abstracts of Presentations for the
Ohio Archaeological Council Fall 2026 Meeting**

October 23, 2026

Highbanks Metro Park
Multipurpose Room (at Nature Center)
9466 US 23 North Lewis Center, OH, 43035
(614)508-8111

The Presentations

Archaeological Site Management and Parks

**Megan Schaeffer, PhD,
Summit County Metro Parks, and
Michael Osborne, CPRP,
Six Rivers Metro Parks**

Abstract

Parks are often stewards of archaeological sites, as the history of the communities they serve are embedded in the fabric of their landscapes. How do parks manage their archaeological sites with limited funding and with sometimes competing recreational and ecological goals? What are the long-term and everyday issues that parks face in managing significant archaeological sites? This presentation will look at two precontact sites, one in Five Rivers MetroParks and one in Summit Metro Parks, their management challenges (and possible solutions), and the opportunities that maintaining these important archaeological landscapes can present.

Spectrogrammetry: A New Way to Publish Metal Detector Data

Eric Olson, MA, RPA

Stewards of Historical Preservation

Abstract

Spectrograms have been used for many different analytical applications, from analyzing bird calls to seismic activity. However, they have yet to be applied systematically to the audio-output of metal detectors. A recent pilot study by Eric Olson has identified a new way to publish and interpret metal detector data, which can enhance the subsurface detecting capabilities of even simple metal detectors. This new study involves test sites in Akron, Ohio and builds upon prior research by Olson from a National Geographic Society grant. While “spectrogrammetry” may not be common parlance, this technique may provide a new method that can be incorporated into Phase I surveys to identify soil anomalies and areas of disturbed soils that otherwise may be missed with traditional methods or not feasible with more expensive geophysical survey methods.

Wooden Architecture Detected at Ohio Earthwork Sites: Geophysical Findings to Date

Jarrold Burks, PhD, RPA

Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc.

Abstract

Archaeologists have long known that wooden architecture is an important component of Ohio Valley earthwork sites. In the nineteenth century most building and other wooden architecture remains were found beneath excavated mounds. More recently, geophysical survey is showing that wooden architecture can be found in a variety of places at earthwork sites—not just beneath (visible) mounds. In this presentation I explore a range of geophysical survey results for evidence of wooden architecture at Ohio sites. I compare and contrast these results with previously documented architecture such as the buildings found beneath the mounds at Mound City, the Edwin Harness mound (Liberty Earthworks), and the Eagle Mound at the center of the Great Circle within the Newark Earthworks.

New Insights on Licking County Hopewell from the 33LI1740 Data Recovery Excavations

Andrew Sewell, MA, RPA

Lawhon & Associates

Abstract

In this presentation on a recent data recovery project at site 33LI1740 in the Raccoon Creek stream valley west of Newark, I will discuss findings from the excavations and analysis of artifacts, features, radiocarbon dates, and paleobotanical/palynological data. While superficially, many aspects of the site are similar to what has been documented at the nearby Murphy Site, pollen and botanical data shows a quite different function. Results of this work suggest that 33LI1740 represents a Middle Woodland specialized camp, situated at a favored location in the landscape dating back to the Late Archaic period. Analysis of the artifacts suggests that bladelet production was an important activity, while usewear on tools shows a variety of processing activities occurred. Very few artifacts related to hunting were recovered, particularly in relation to the AMS dates for the Middle Woodland occupation. Synthesis of the varying lines of evidence points to a potential campsite that was at times occupied by people participating in activities at nearby earthworks, although it is uncertain if these were people coming into the region from elsewhere or from the local population living in the Licking River drainage. As with many investigations into Middle Woodland sites, we are perhaps left with more questions than answers.