

**Field School Opportunities – Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Ave
Richmond, VA 23221**

**Chippokes Plantation State Park
October 26 – November 1, 2008**

Background

Chippokes Plantation State Park is located on the bank of the James River in Surry County, Virginia. Chippokes Plantation is among the oldest working farms in the nation. Captain William Powell received a land grant for 550 acres along Chippokes Creek in 1619. In 1646, the plantation was expanded to 1403 acres. The center piece for the state park is the brick Italianate plantation house built in 1854 and open to the public. The plantation was placed on the National Register in 1969 and the park was created in 1977 when the General Assembly voted to create a foundation to establish, administer, and maintain the model farm. Chippokes Plantation retains an extensive array of original plantation outbuildings, slave quarters, and farm buildings. The 28 recorded archaeological resources include a Native American Late Archaic camp, Woodland Period encampments, early 17th century dwelling sites, second half 17th century colonial farmsteads, second quarter 18th century domestic structures, and 19th / 20th century farm related sites. This extensive number of archaeological resources provides both opportunities and challenges for management. Extensive interpretation is a component of park management including house tours, a Farm and Forestry Museum, and a visitor center as well as offering research opportunities of diachronic change through time. Management also retains a strong preservation element with sites avoided in impacting projects, protected from natural erosion, and policed for illegal metal detecting and/or artifact collection.

Field School

The ASV/DHR/State Parks/USDA-Forest Service Passport in Time partnership began with the 2007 field school. A prehistoric site, 44SY162, which is located on a high bluff above the James, was tested due to erosional threats. The site was predicted to contain evidence for Middle Woodland occupation in the form of a hunting/gathering encampment for a mobile pre-horticultural society. In 2009, a second prehistoric site in proximity to 44SY0162 will be tested with STPs and 5.0' units. Chronology and function are predicted to be similar to 44SY0162

The 17th century Colonial site, 44SY0253, is also of high interest. Tested in 2008, recovered artifacts include smoking pipe fragments, lead shot and sprue, English flint, and case bottle fragments along with a low frequency of period ceramics. Occupation seems to be in the ca. AD 1620 - 1640 period. Site function, then, was smoking, drinking, and shooting things, a male-oriented site. Numerous brick "crumbs" and nails may point to some temporary structure on-site. The site will be revisited in 2009.

The last site tested in 2008 was a slave quarters associated with the nearby Walnut Valley Plantation which was built in the 1740s. Dendrochronology indicated an initial building sequence in 1814. The one-room dwelling with loft is within 50 yards of the plantation and the area directly in front of the structure and was tested with 5.0' units as were 2 other areas of high artifact concentration. In addition, a series of STPs was dug between the quarters and the main plantation house in order to test for other structures. Additional test units will be excavated in 2009.

The 2008 Chippokes Field School meets the Certification requirements for excavation and survey. Camping for volunteer participants will be provided free for those participating for 3 days or more. A bunkhouse is also available with priority given to those who participated in those in the Certification Program.

APPLICATION FOR CHIPPOKES PLANTATION FIELD SCHOOL 2009

Applicants must be members of the Archeological Society of Virginia and will gain the best experience if enrolled in or graduated from the Certification Program. Children as young as 12 years of age may participate if accompanied by a responsible adult, although they must be 16 years of age to enroll in the Certification Program.

Name of Applicant:

Date(s) of Attendance:

Address:

Email Address:

Chapter Affiliation:

Enrolled in Certification Program ____ yes ____ no

Enrolled in Passport in Time ____ yes ____ no

Archaeological Experience:

Special Skills:

CONTACTS

Submit Applications to

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