

New York Almanack

Archaeology in Lake George Battlefield Park

June 10, 2024

Dr. Siobhan Hart, Associate Professor at Skidmore College and Chair of its Anthropology Department, will preside at an informal presentation, “Archaeology in Lake George Battlefield Park,” summarizing her team’s initial findings after their first two weeks of investigating the [historic site](#), on Sunday, June 16. The program will begin at 2 pm in the park’s Visitor Center, 75 Fort George Road, Lake George.

The event, sponsored by the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance, is part of New York State’s Path through History Weekend. There is no charge to attend.

The public will have the opportunity to learn of Professor Hart’s current activities, explore the Visitor Center’s exhibits, and view places on park grounds where important American history occurred, from the Battle of Lake George in 1755 through Carleton’s Raid of 1780.

Professor Hart and her team of students and volunteers plan to discuss and demonstrate several aspects of their archaeological fieldwork. This will include:

- the use of ground-penetrating radar (GPR) in modern archaeology;
- how the GPR assists in determining locations where excavation might be beneficial;
- past and recent artifact discoveries in the Battlefield Park; and
- how their fieldwork is reviewed and ultimately preserved by New York State.

The project is expected to conclude for this season on June 21. Professor Hart is hopeful of returning to the Battlefield Park next year, using the outcomes of 2024 as a basis for additional investigations.

The strategic excavation aspect of the Skidmore project has already generated commitments from eight people to volunteer a total of 35 days in support of this fieldwork. [Would-be volunteers can still register to assist by sending an email to the Alliance at info@lakegeorgebattlefield.org and indicating what day(s) they would like to participate. Registrants will then be sent a required volunteer form to complete, along with further instructions.]

The Skidmore College archaeology project is the first being conducted in Lake George Battlefield Park since 2016, when the late Dr. David Starbuck concluded a series of five explorations of the site.

Professor Hart will also be a guest on “Lake George Battlefield Moments” next Saturday (June 15) at 9:45 am on Lake George Radio, 93.5 FM.