

## **Using Interpreters or Tour Guides or Both, what is the best communication style?**

Historic Westville reopened on June 22nd in Columbus Georgia. Westville is a Living History Museum where visitors are immersed in the SW Georgia past from 1840 to 1860. We are inviting participants to come out to Westville to tour the museum and interact with our interpreters who will be demonstrating: Blacksmithing, Carpentry, Cordwinding (making shoes), Quilting, Papermaking, Printing, and Native American Basketry. You will be able to participate in making several of the crafts. This will be followed by a lively discussion on the pros and cons of using interpreters, guides or both. Audience participation will be encouraged.

## **Introduction to Evaluating Informal Learning: Applying Research to *Practice***

This workshop will focus on the variety of evaluation measures that work within the nonformal setting. Extracting from the body of literature, the session will summarize techniques and model implementation in a participatory fashion. The session will be structured into three sections - the importance for evaluation and assessment, the variety of techniques offered in the literature to support evaluation, and opportunities for the attendees to begin developing assessment strategies unique to their individual contexts. The goal is to help centers maximize the effectiveness of their programs and guide their growth and development.

## **Archival Box Making for Three Dimensional Objects**

In this workshop, participants will learn how to properly support three dimensional objects in boxes intended for archival storage. The presenter will discuss materials, object sensitivities, and provide hands-on guidance for archival box construction.

## **What color is it? The Digital Color Quandary**

Accurately identifying the color of an artifact in situ usually requires the use of a spectrophotometer and a Munsell color chart. Once determined, the translation of color often gets altered as photographs are taken and uploaded to online databases, printed or viewed on a variety of screens of variable calibration. This workshop introduces participants to Nix™ Pro, a portable spectrophotometer and mobile app. Participants, working in teams of two, will use this spectrophotometer and a custom grid system to measure the color readings of

an artifact then input the data into a spreadsheet to calculate its actual CIE L\*a\*b\*color.

### **Bringing History to Life through the Use of Volunteers**

In recent decades the number of volunteer reenactors and living historians has grown dramatically and they can be a great educational tool for traditional museums. However, there are also real concerns over how best to utilize this resource that need to be addressed and overcome. Through cooperation and focused planning, living historians can increase visitor enthusiasm and expand a museum's educational outreach to all age groups. This workshop or session will focus on three main topics: introducing museum professionals to the reenactor/living history world, demonstrating the power of using living history through demonstrations and examples, and discussing some of the concerns of using volunteer living historians and finding solutions.

### **A Projectile Petting Zoo or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb Workshop on site at the National Civil War Naval Museum**

This workshop is intended for those interested in identifying, handling, and caring for older black-powder weapons. Using the collection of the National Civil War Naval Museum, the workshop will walk through basic identification of types of weapons and how they work to gain a better understanding of their long-term care and exhibit. Safety is a must in dealing with a variety of weapons and associated materials. Many collection caretakers have no training with these artifacts, which means that they can't make assessments about the history or safety of the objects in their care. This workshop will help with those assessments and provide practical solutions to dangerous situations and dispel some of the myths surrounding these objects.

### **The Citizen Scientist Experience, or Convincing the Public to Do Your Dirty Work**

Many museums have a back-log of specimens that need to be sorted and/or cataloged, but not enough staff or time to process them. Through programs like "Fossil Wednesdays", guests can experience the role of a paleontologist by sorting through matrix material to find micro fossils. This volunteer-based process can be applied to other collections, giving guests a unique, often memorable experience while helping work through unsorted specimens. Workshop attendees will participate in a hands-on search for micro fossils and get a glimpse into the importance of paleontology, collections, and the citizen science experience.