Menominee Reservation

- Located in northeastern Wisconsin
- 1 of 11 federally recognized tribes
- 9000+ members
- Creation began at the mouth of the Menominee River, a mere 60 miles east of our present Menominee Indian Reservation. (Michigan, UP)
College of Menominee Nation

- Chartered by Menominee People in 1993
- Land Grant College in 1996
- Keshena and Green Bay Campuses
What is the Youth Heritage Program?

• 12 local Menominee youth age 13-18 participated in a summer program
• Students participated in activities that incorporate basic understanding in geology, geography, soil science, agronomy, anthropology, ethnology, history—all with an emphasis on the importance of sustainable life-ways, a core Menominee value
• Students were required to keep a daily diary of activities.
• A social feast with traditional singing and dancing took place at the conclusion of the program with a meal prepared from the garden.
• One week of Empowerment
  • Resume writing
  • Student Success Strategies – Time Management, Study skills
  • What to expect in college
  • Medicinal plants & Medicines and Tea making
Archeological research

Through cooperative research sponsored by the National Park Service, Menominee Tribal Enterprises, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, MITW and CMN we were able to partner with the Smithsonian Institution, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the Illinois Geological Survey, the National Forest Service and others in capacity building. In sum, we realized the following:

1. the ancestral Menominee had practiced sustainable organic agriculture for more than a millennium

2. maize, squash, sunflower, and perhaps chenopodium were among the crops being harvested by the ancestral Menominee over the course of many centuries

3. the functional attributes of raised agricultural fields were much more complex than anticipated and among the many surprises were that various soil amendments had been made to what have been characterized as “very poor” soils for agriculture

From this it became readily apparent that while the ancient Menominee were known by all as the “People of the Wild Rice” they developed a very sophisticated forest-based agricultural system in what are characterized as “marginal habitats.” Investigations continue at raised agricultural fields on the Menominee Reservation through both field and lab archaeological inquiry and through practical application by means of a “replica” of the ancient gardening system
Ancient Menominee Sites

Raised garden beds

Storage pits

Soil amendments
Excavations & Garden
The Great Cahokia site

- Located in Collinsville, Illinois
- City of Cahokia was inhabited from about A.D. 700 to 1400 covering more than 2000 acres
- Cahokia was the largest and most influential urban settlement of the Mississippian culture, which developed advanced societies across much of what is now the central and southeastern United States, beginning more than 1,000 years before European contact. Today, Cahokia Mounds is considered the largest and most complex archaeological site north of the great pre-Columbian cities in Mexico.
• Monks Mound

Monks Mound is the largest Pre-Columbian earthwork in America and the largest pyramid north of Mesoamerica. The beginning of its construction dates from 900-955 CE. The mound size was calculated in 1988 as about 100 feet high, 955 feet long and 775 feet wide.

• Woodhenge

The woodhenge is thought by archaeologists to be a solar calendar, capable of marking equinox and solstice sunrises and sunsets for the timing of the agricultural cycle and religious observances.

• Mound 72

The mound was the location of the "beaded burial", an elaborate burial of an elite person thought to have been one of the rulers of Cahokia, accompanied by the graves of several hundred retainers and sacrificial victims.
The Great Cahokia site
The Archeological Technicians
Thanks to staff members:

- Dr. David Overstreet - Tribal Archaeologist
- Monae Warrington - Archeological Curator
- Jim Clark - Archeological Curator
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Waewaenen!
(Thank you)