

"Some people can 'talk' history, Firehawk lives it by making his own clothes, fabricating tools, cooking authentic foods...and he draws the participant in to experience what life was like with the Eastern Woodland Indians during prehistoric times."
Gregory Bernard

"Daniel was great to work with and willing to do what we wanted for our programs. I was able to observe him.... with a group of school children here at the Refuge. These are the kind of programs that children enjoy watching, learn a lot from, hold their interest and make them want to hear more."
Maggie Briggs, Visitor Services Manager, U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Chesapeake Marshlands NWR Complex, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

"I was extremely impressed with his ability to take the audience on a journey back in time. His appearance, mannerism and vast knowledge of his heritage create a spell-binding presentation (that) is not only enjoyable to watch, but highly educational and can hold an audience's attention for long periods of time. I would recommend his program for all ages as it is a mesmerizing, informative and entertaining production for all age groups."
Joe Elton, Director, Virginia State Parks, Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

ORIGIN...
The point
at which
something
comes into
existence or
from which it
derives or is
derived.



ORIGIN

DEVELOPED AND PRESENTED BY:

Daniel FIREHAWK Abbott

of the Nanticoke - *Nentego* - people of Maryland's Eastern Shore

ARTISAN AND CULTURAL HISTORIAN:

PREHISTORIC NATIVE AMERICAN LIFE SKILLS, TOOLS & ARCHITECTURE

Firehawk is a Vietnam era veteran with a BS degree in biology from the University of Maryland. He has conducted extensive research on the mid-Atlantic Native American culture and has developed advanced skill in myriad prehistoric functional arts including:

- * CONSTRUCTION OF AUTHENTIC PREHISTORIC HOUSES
- * STONE AND BONE TOOL MANUFACTURE * FRICTION FIRE-MAKING
- * NATURAL FIBER TECHNOLOGIES * CERAMICS

In addition to the development and presentation of the ORIGIN program, Firehawk works closely with **The Nanticoke Historic Preservation Alliance (NHPA)** in a collaboration with public, private and non-profit sectors to design and build an authenticated Native American village which will offer a "living" interpretation of life among the Nanticoke Indians in the 17th and 18th centuries. Through a compelling portrayal of Eastern Woodland Indian life, the project seeks to develop tourism and encourage public interest and involvement in local history and prehistory; instill a sense of stewardship for and connection with the natural world; and instruct in life skills that underscore the values of self sufficiency and esteem, relationship building and a respect for nature. For more information on NHPA programs and events go to: www.restorehandsell.org.

CLIENTS OF NOTE:

Adkins Arboretum
Blackwater National Refuge
Boy and Girl Scouts of America
Chesapeake College
Central Intelligence Agency
Department of the Navy, Naval Research Laboratory
Dorchester County Historical Society
Goddard Space Center
Historic Jamestown
Hancock's Resolution Historical Park
Havre de Grace Maritime Museum
Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
Maryland Heritage Society
Maryland Historical Society
Nanticoke Historic Preservation Alliance
National Archives and Records Administration
Oregon Ridge Nature Center
State of Delaware, Iron Hill Museum
United States Coast Guard
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
Virginia Department of Parks & Recreation

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Publication funded in part by the
Nanticoke Historic Preservation
Alliance and the Maryland
Heritage Areas Authority



ORIGIN

AN EXPLORATION OF
PREHISTORIC CULTURE
IN THE MID-ATLANTIC



Cultural Historian

Daniel FIREHAWK Abbott

guides the modern explorer
through the everyday life of
the Native American in the
mid-Atlantic coastal region
of prehistoric North America

EDUCATIONAL
OUTREACH

CULTURAL
INTERPRETATION

PREHISTORIC
LIFE SKILLS
WORKSHOPS

DEMONSTRATIONS
& EXHIBITS

www.firehawkabbott.com

...IMAGINE

A PRISTINE WORLD
DEVOID OF TOXIC POLLUTANTS,
LIVING IN NATURAL HARMONY
WITH THE ENVIRONMENT.
THE LAND, THE SKY, THE WATERS,
ABUNDANT WITH UNBLEMISHED LIFE,
SATURATE YOUR SENSES,
PROVIDE FOR YOUR NEEDS

YOU KNOW THIS WORLD INTIMATELY,
YOUR PLACE WITHIN IT,
YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO IT,
YOU HARVEST, PROCESS AND
MANUFACTURE EVERYTHING
NEEDED FOR PERSONAL COMFORT
NUTRITION, MEDICINE AND
TRADE WITH DISTANT CULTURES,
YOU SING, DANCE, JOKE, PLAY GAMES,
GIVE THE BEST YOU HAVE WITHOUT
THOUGHT OF RETURN,
YOU LIVE WITHIN AN ATMOSPHERE
OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND SPIRITUAL
GRATITUDE FOR LIFE.

It may be difficult to imagine a place
like this ever existed as we face the
daily rigors of the modern world, but it
did exist. In fact, it existed right here in
Maryland and throughout North
America within prehistoric Native
American communities.



The story of Eastern Woodland native culture reaches thousands of years into the distant past of what is now the state of Maryland. It is a heritage that is intimately woven into the fabric of our families and our nation, yet it is often misinterpreted and remains largely obscure. Disease epidemics and conflict wiped out much of this heritage, and cultural bias, apathy, and assimilation threaten to eliminate what has managed to survive. As a result, the general public has little awareness of native culture.

In fact, our awareness is often limited to names that many of our towns, landmarks, and even some of our consumer products still bear but whose meanings have long since been forgotten. Our history curriculums place major emphasis on comparatively recent European colonization and expansion and largely ignore more than 16,000 years of native culture. We may encounter an occasional museum exhibit or attend a commercialized native powwow - that mostly exemplifies contemporary Western native culture, not Eastern Woodland - but such events have limited reach and continuity.

But more exposure to native culture - with its emphasis on self-reliance, community, spirituality, and an enduring connection to the natural world - brings with it potential for positive change at a time when American society faces a wide range of challenges. It could help offset our growing sense of isolation (from nature and each other), shore up deteriorating values and principles, and address some of the health issues that are having a pronounced effect on our children.

"(Children's) physical contact and intimacy with the natural outdoors has diminished greatly," notes a 2008

National Park Service report.
"Their inability to connect with nature is now recognized as a national issue of concern. There is speculation that the loss of a child/nature connection threatens their independent judgment, their value of place, their ability to feel awe and wonder, their sense of stewardship for the earth, and their psychological and physical health."

INTRODUCING... ORIGIN

AN EXPLORATION OF EVERYDAY
LIFE OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN
IN THE MID-ATLANTIC COASTAL
REGION OF PREHISTORIC, FIRST-
CONTACT NORTH AMERICA

• EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Designed to enlighten through education and promote individual and group creativity, the ORIGIN program strives to instill respect for ethnic diversity and cultural values, and create a comparative image of life where respect for self, family, elders, community and the natural world were mainstream virtues.

• CULTURAL INTERPRETATION

Led by artisan and cultural historian Daniel Firehawk Abbott of the Nanticoke (Nentego) peoples, dressed in traditional Coastal Algonquin clothing, participants are introduced to the culture, history and lifestyle of the Eastern Woodland Indians of the mid-Atlantic region - specifically the Nanticoke-Choptank people of Maryland's Eastern Shore.

• PREHISTORIC LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOPS

The broad spectrum interpretive presentation addresses ecology through the ages, prehistoric architecture, socioeconomic and cultural considerations as well as detailed instruction on Native life skills including:

- Stone and bone tool manufacture
- Ceramics and pottery making

- Friction fire-making
- Cooking methods
- Basketry
- Horticulture
- Food harvest, processing, preservation and storage
- Edible/medicinal/utilitarian plants
- Burn & scrape utilitarian items
- Hide conditioning
- Hunting and fishing techniques
- Native clothing - form and function
- Sewing and lacing techniques
- Cordage and textile fabrication using natural fibers
- Games, including spear thrower (atlatl) & javelin, archery and the hoop & lance game
- Housing construction practices & techniques

• DEMONSTRATIONS

The program is enhanced by an extensive display of stone, bone and shell tools, prehistoric weaponry, assorted robes, hides and pelts, basketry, textiles, ceramic vessels, model prehistoric houses, a model prehistoric hamlet-style village—most of which have been fabricated by Firehawk himself using authentic materials and techniques.



Highly unique and engaging, the interactive exploration encompasses lecture, demonstration and participation and is appropriately geared to audiences of all ages and backgrounds.



"Daniel is like putting your arm through a portal of time back 300+ years and pulling him through to the present. Everything we hear him say and do is, as it was back then. It's not only about knowledge and ability, he is truly Indian in spirit and at heart. A proud, good man and one of Dorchester's best."
Terry Crannell, Native American Curator
Dorchester County Historical Society



"I was completely mesmerized during his presentation—I felt I had been transported back 10,000 years. It's an experience you'll never forget."
Brett Schoolnick



"Daniel has provided excellent presentations on a wide range of technologies....all of which are outstanding and he is in wide demand for his skills and abilities. I have been lucky enough to have worked with him at the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum on many occasions and have noted his wide appeal and the enthusiastic reception he receives from visitors during his presentations"
F. Kirk Dreier, Senior Naturalist
Oregon Ridge Nature Center

