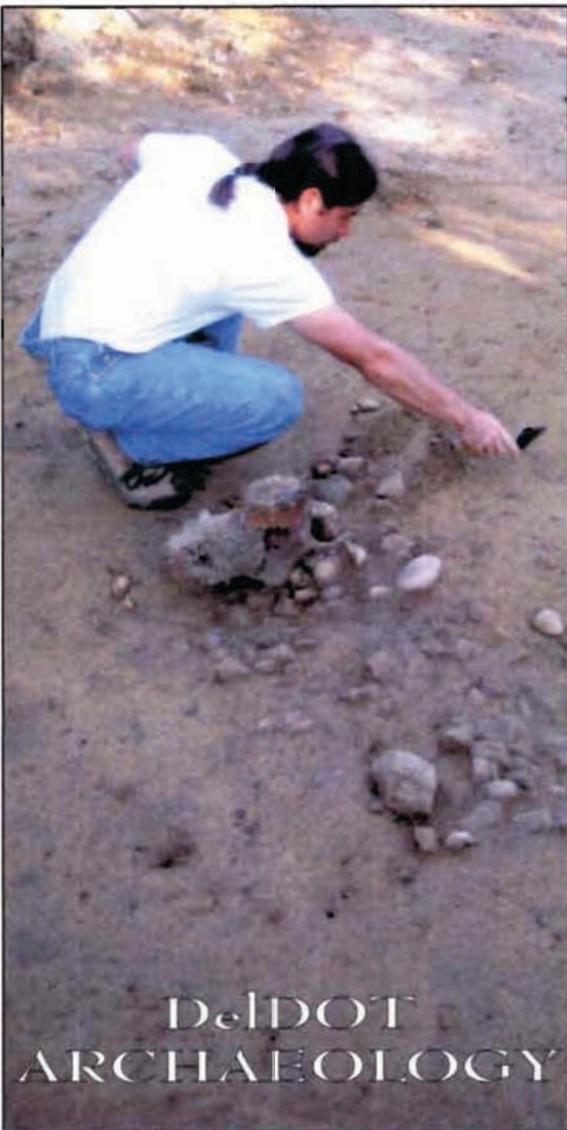


# EXPLORE DELAWARE'S PREHISTORY AT PUNCHEON RUN



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DIVISION OF PLANNING  
P.O. Box 778  
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903

- **Site Tours.** Everyone is welcome (both groups and individuals) on Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or by appointment.
- **Volunteer Opportunities.** People who want to participate in the digging as volunteers can stop by on Thursdays between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

For more information, please call Kevin Cunningham at (302) 760-2125 or John Bedell of Berger at (202) 331-7775.



*Project Sponsor: Delaware Department of Transportation*  
[www.state.de.us/deldot](http://www.state.de.us/deldot)



*Cooperating Agency: Federal Highway Administration*  
[www.fhwa.dot.gov](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov)



*Consultant: The Cultural Resource Group*  
*Louis Berger & Associates, Inc.*  
[www.lba-crg.com](http://www.lba-crg.com)



## ARCHAEOLOGY AT PUNCHEON RUN

What was life like in Delaware 2,000 years ago? Since there are no written records from so long ago, the only way we can find out is through archaeology. The Puncheon Run Site in Dover is a place where prehistoric Indians camped as they fished, hunted, and gathered plants on the St. Jones River and the surrounding marshes. The site will be crossed by the Puncheon Run Connector, a new road that will carry traffic from State Route 1 to US 13. To prevent this construction from



damaging the only record we have of life in this area before Europeans came—the

archaeological sites—the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) and Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. (Berger), are conducting archaeological excavations at the Puncheon Run Site. The final excavations began in May 1998 and will run throughout the summer.



## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The site will be open for tours on Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and by appointment. People who want to dig on the site can drop by on Thursdays or make special arrangements. Hundreds of students have already worked on the site, learning about the past and the science of archaeology.



## ARTIFACTS

The prehistoric people of Puncheon Run used stone tools, like spear points and knives, and clay pots. By studying these objects we hope



to learn what kinds of work people did on the site, and when they lived here. Since different groups of people make their tools and pots differently, we also hope to find out how they were related to other peoples in the surrounding region by studying the tools and pottery fragments found on the site. People also made tools out of wood, bone, and reeds, but those have all rotted away.

## STORAGE PITS

The people who lived at Puncheon Run dug many deep pits. We think they were used to store food for the winter months, although they may have been used for temporary storage during food gathering or processing. We do not know yet what those stored foods were, but we hope to find out by excavating more of



these pits. We will be carrying out a variety of scientific tests on the soil from the pits, including radiocarbon dating, immunologic tests for animal proteins, studies of plant phytoliths (microscopic silica structures made by plants), and analysis of the soil chemistry.

## PREHISTORIC HEARTHES

In some parts of the site prehistoric hearths or fire places are still intact, the stones lying right where they were left when the people moved on, as much as 5,000 years ago!

