

## **Geophysics, Cultural Geology and Long Island's Indigenous People**

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Long Island's glacial past has been well studied. Aside from a few lingering questions related to the greatest extent of the Laurentide ice sheet, the timing of specific advances and retreats, and the ice sheet dynamics that led to local features, Long Island's glacial history is well established. But what happened after the glacier's final retreat from our region? When did America's first people arrive on Long Island and what did those cultures look like? Historical references to our Indigenous people would have us believe that Long Island was populated by only a couple hundred year-round residents, but is that statement accurate and if so, why? Since 2019 a group of researchers and indigenous leaders on Long Island have been trying to answer that question. In this presentation we will show how collaborations between Suffolk County Community College, Stony Brook University, the Shinnecock Nation, the Peconic Land Trust, and the Southold Indian Museum have used geophysics and cultural geology to not only preserve culturally significant locations but also use modern technologies to begin understanding and retelling the rich history of Long Island's indigenous people and the thriving culture that existed prior to 1523.

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