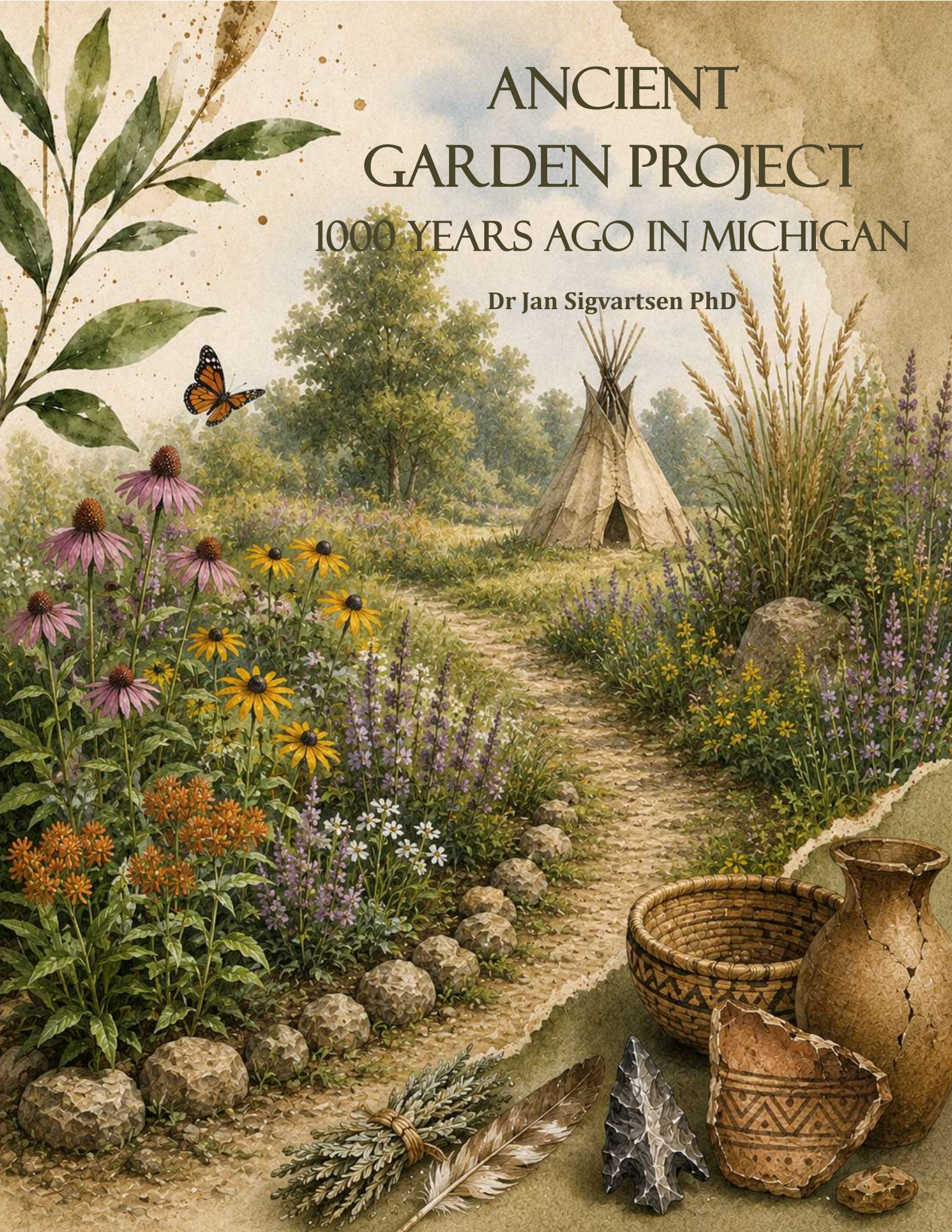

ANCIENT
GARDEN PROJECT
1000 YEARS AGO IN MICHIGAN
Dr Jan Sigvartsen PhD

Berrien Springs Partnership Syllabus

CLASS TITLE:	Ancient Garden Project - 1000 Years ago in Michigan (6-20)
TOTAL REQUIRED HRS:	16
ADDITIONAL TIME POSSIBLE:	Yes, if needed
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS POSSIBLE:	16
LOCATION (address):	6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49103
PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR:	Dr Jan A. Sigvartsen PhD (goes by Dr Jan)
SECONDARY INSTRUCTOR:	Leanne M. Sigvartsen (goes by Ms Leanne)
CONTACT INFORMATION:	Jan@tarragindi.org, Leanne@tarragindi.org 269-363-3968 –tarragindi.org

INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS:	Dr Jan	BA, MA, PhD
	Ms Leanne	BA Psych, PGD Psych, MCouns

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To allow students to learn about the Woodland people who lived in this region 500-3000 years ago. They were large scale farmers and developed a garden technique to extend the growing season.
2. To recreate a Woodland period garden based on archaeological findings.
3. To teach ancient Michigan history in an engaging, real way with the view of students developing belonging and a sense of place in their local community by connecting with these ancient cultures from their home state.

CLASS TIMES:

Thursday 1pm – 3pm

January 14 – 17 then we pause and resume on April 15 – May 20

All our classes are half semester (8 week) programs due to weather constraints.

We can't do gardening in the snow or frozen ground! So we do two required classes in January (January 12-15 and January 18-22). Then six weeks in either the first half or second half of the semester.

Register for one of our other programs in the first half of the semester - then resume this one in the second half and still only be committed to one class each week throughout the semester! Our class list is below.

Our Spring 2026 Classes

First Half of the Semester

- **Arrowhead Making and Ancient Tools** - learn to make stone arrowheads, identify and date them, and make ancient stone and wood tools used by ancient people. Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Board Games, Civilization Building** – learn to build strong communities by building small ones in an in-person, interactive, screen-free class. Syllabus at tarragindi.org

- **Genealogy 101** – trace your family tree as far back as you can go (Warning: HIGHLY addictive!!). Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Historic Photography** – learn photography by capturing a new local historic site each week and learning its story. Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Historic Court Trials** – bring your acting skills and relive real 1800s court trials that were tried in the Berrien Springs Courthouse – Michigan's oldest courthouse. Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Historic Storytelling** – learn the ancient art of telling stories and keeping our history alive. Syllabus at tarragindi.org

Second Half of the Semester

- **Archaeology Dig – Tarragindi** - Excavate one of the Berrien County's oldest settler farms, that is nearly 200 years old, with archaeologist Dr Jan Sigvartsen PhD. We find antique bottles, coins, and so much more! Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Cemetery Restoration Project** - Help save one of Berrien County's oldest cemeteries and learn the life stories of our earliest European settlers who are buried there. Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Garden Recreation Project - 1000 Years Ago** - Recreate a real Woodland Native American garden based on Michigan's very own archaeology record. Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Gardening Project, 1830s Early Settlers Garden** - Recreate a real Berrien County early settler garden based on historical records.
- **Historic Writing** – hone your writing skills by capturing local historical stories and getting them published. Syllabus at tarragindi.org

SYLLABUS/OUTLINE: Weekly approximate breakdown of activities:

Class 1: (2 hours) January 14

6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49103

You will be required to sign a waiver and choose if you want to participate in photographs or not during this program. We will go over expectations and give you some background of the four groups of indigenous people, and three distinct waves of settlers who moved to Berrien Springs.

Class 2: (2 hours) January 16, 2.30-4.30pm OR January 17, 2.30-4.30pm (attend 1 only)

1860 County Poor Farm Tour (Love Creek County Park, 9292 Huckleberry Rd, Berrien Center)

Did you know most early settlers couldn't tame the land into a workable farm? Many didn't even have the money to go home. That is why Berrien County set up the County Poor Farm that became a thriving community of its own and an example of what can be achieved when we work together.

Class 3: (2 hours) April 15

6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49013

Using the Tarragindi property, we will recreate a Woodland period step/raised garden using the archaeological record of these gardens in Michigan. We will also identify both perennial and annual plants these ancient people used from core samples at archaeological digs in the area. We will plot out the garden and orient it to the south.

Class 4: (2 hours) April 22

6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49013

We will start creating the garden itself using stones and raised beds that kept these gardens warm into the late fall and extended the growing season.

Class 5: (2 hours) April 29

6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49013
We will continue creating the garden itself using stones and raised beds that kept these gardens warm into the late fall and extended the growing season.

Class 6: (2 hours) May 6

6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49013
We will complete the garden itself, and start planting it with period appropriate perennial identified in the archaeological core samples.

Class 7: (2 hours) May 13

6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49013
We will finish planting the perennial component, and plant food crop trees that ancient Woodland people grew.

Class 8: (2 hours) May 20

6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49013
We will finish planting the perennial component, and plant food crop trees that ancient Woodland people grew.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT - In addition to the 2 items below, what will be used to evaluate student progress and/or end of semester pass/fail status?

1) Students agree to attend at least 80% of class sessions/lessons offered. Attendance is kept online and tracked by Partnership staff. Unexcused absences resulting in failure to meet 80% threshold may result in program discontinuation.
2) The Partnership Student Assessment is filled out by the teacher and turned in to Partnership staff. The rubric is found on the teacher's online attendance sheet. Failing marks for lack of participation, behavior issues, excessive absences, etc. may result in program discontinuation.
3) Other class-specific assessment: Engagement in the program, follow through with instruction, and participation in research of artifacts found.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: (online, books, video, etc.):
www.tarragindi.org/resources - page on our website giving links to local history resources.

CLASS-SPECIFIC POLICIES:
Attendance: Students are to attend each week. If they cannot make it one week, or if we have to cancel due to weather, we are happy to reschedule or have student's attend one of our other 12 archaeology or history classes that has some crossover content.

Behavior: To be careful, listen to instructions, identify everything you like about others (not what you don't like about them – ancient and settler communities succeeded through team work), zero tolerance of bullying, report bullying, have fun!

Weather: This is an indoor class, but will be canceled if there is significant snow forecast. All students will be emailed. Dr Sigvartsen will still go down to the Tarragindi property to ensure everyone got his email message.

Other: Be kind to the neighbors by parking in the designated areas, being courteous, and keeping the noise down.

ZERO BULLYING – we have a zero bullying policy. We want to be a space were people build one another up, not tear each other down. Please report bullying to Ms Leanne immediately. Do not attempt to deal with it yourself or have your parent deal with it.
We work on a compassionate three-warning system. A child engaging in anti-social behaviors will be given a first and a second warning, along with compassionate and clear expectations of future behavior and examples of that behavior. We have only ever needed to give one first warning, due to the efficacy of this compassionate system. However, if a child requires a third warning, they will be removed from all Tarragindi Initiative programming.

ZERO Sexual harassment, profanity, sexually explicit, or crude behavior or speech – we have a strict zero-acceptance policy for anti-social behaviors. Again, we are a space that makes people feel welcome and accepted, not uncomfortable. Please report these behaviors to Ms Leanne immediately. She will deal with it and these behaviors were the topic of her Masters research thesis. Again, grace will be offered along with the same compassionate three warning protocol outlined above.

Withdrawal from the class: If you wish to withdraw from the class, you must do so following Class 1 or prior to Class 2. Otherwise, very significant investment will be made in you/your child and their participation in the class that you may be financially responsible for. We are happy to do make up classes if you have to miss a class for whatever reason or miss the first class. Parent Partnership staff have been advised of our deadlines. If your schedule changes after the Tarragini withdrawal deadline, please talk to Ms Leanne, as she may be able to work something out for you or schedule another class time for you.