

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

Archeology Workshop is around the corner

Visitors to the Annual Workshop in Archeology in Crownsville March 25 are going to have to make some tough choices. While nine sessions are planned, usually several of them are running at the same time.

But there is only one offering in the first of the four time slots. Luke Pecoraro will deliver the keynote address, "Slavery at George Washington's Mount Vernon," where he works. His presentation will focus on what is known about slavery at the plantation through the archeological collection and also update on the excavation of Mount Vernon's slave cemetery. The keynote begins at 9:45.

After a short coffee break, two sessions begin at 11. In the main conference room, Becca Peixotto will talk about "Waders and Snake Chaps: Exploring Resistance Landscapes in the Great Dismal Swamp." The swamp, on the Virginia - North Carolina border, was a refuge for both Indians and blacks from 1660 to 1860. She will talk about newly identified remote sites there and also why researchers put up with bugs and snakes to do their work.

At the same time in the third floor MHT boardroom, Jen Sparenberg of the MHT will delve into why "Mother Nature Bats Last," a look at why archeological sites can get short-changed in planning to protect cultural resources from natural hazards. She then will lead a discussion of ideas on how to protect endangered sites.

The afternoon program begins with a choice of three talks. In one, Craig Lukezic of the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will look at the types of forts and fortifications built in the Mid-Atlantic from Colonial days through the 20th Century. His focus will be on seacoast defenses. This program takes place in the main conference room.

Up on the third floor, Joe Nicoli of Direct Dimensions will look at the wide range of laser scanners now in use. No one scanner does everything and the talk will demonstrate some of the many different systems available and discuss when each one is appropriate for conservation work.

The third program is the first of a two-part session on basic laboratory procedures by Becky Morehouse of Jefferson Patterson. This program is intended for CAT candidates and seating is very limited. There will be a sign-up sheet at the registration table.

In one of the day's final two programs, in the conference room, the Trust's Marcia Miller will look at the flash flood that devastated downtown Ellicott City last year and the coordinated response by Howard County, MHT and Preservation Maryland to ultimately save the historic buildings.

The other final program has Zach Singer, a PhD candidate, and Carol Ebright of the State Highway Administration re-examining the first excavated Paleo site in Maryland, the Higgins Site near BWI airport. Besides offering an overview of the original excavation (which Carol conducted) and interpretation, they will present an updated discussion of the Paleoindian occupation based on the reanalysis of the toolkit composition, raw material profile and intra-site patterning.

Registration for the workshop begins at 9, welcoming remarks at 9:30. Admission is \$7, or \$5 for ASM members and students. Lunch begins around 12:15. The cafeteria will not be open. Though there are some restaurants nearby, people are urged to bring a lunch and hang out in the cafeteria.

Upcoming events

March 4: ASM board meeting. Ellicott City. 10 a.m. All ASM members are welcome.

March 16 - 19: Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference, Virginia Beach.

<http://www.maacmidatlanticarchaeology.org/conferences.htm>

March 25: Annual Workshop in Archeology. Crownsville.

April 8: Spring Symposium, with silent auction. Crownsville.

April: Archeology month in Maryland. Special programs throughout the state.

April 20-1: Hands-on workshop on ceramics. Four sessions. For information, contact

<http://www.winterhur.org/>

Volunteer opportunities

The following volunteer opportunities are open to CAT participants and other ASM members: **ASM Tuesday**

Volunteer Lab: The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 3 and is now cataloging Mason Island II (18MO13) material. Anyone interested (especially CAT candidates) is welcome. Contact Louis Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall at charles.hall@maryland.gov

A volunteer opportunity is available at a 17 Century site in Edgewater in Anne Arundel County, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, with Jim Gibb jamesggibb@verizon.net and Laura Cripps lcripps@howardcc.edu under the auspices of the Smithsonian. Contact either one to participate. There will be magnetometer training.

The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center seeks participants in its Citizen-Scientist Program in archeology and other environmental research programs in Edgewater. Field and lab work are conducted Wednesdays and on occasional Saturdays. Contact Jim Gibb at jamesggibb@verizon.net

Montgomery County is accepting applications from for lab and field work volunteers. Contact Heather Bouslog at 301 563 7530 or Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org

The Anne Arundel County Archaeology Program and the Lost Towns Project welcome volunteers in both field and lab at numerous sites throughout Anne Arundel County. Weekdays only. Email Jasmine Gollup at volunteers@losttownsproject.org or call the lab at 410 222 1318.

Mount Calvert. Lab work and field work. 301 627 1286.

Jefferson Patterson Park invites volunteers to take part in its activities, including archeology, historical research and conservation. Contact Ed Chaney at ed.chaney@maryland.gov or 410 586 8554.

The Archaeological Institute of America provides an online listing of fieldwork opportunities worldwide. Call up www.archaeological.org/fieldwork to get started.

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CAT corner:

A two-session program on basic lab procedures will be held during the March 25 Workshop in Archeology.

For the latest information on CAT activities see the ASM website or contact Belinda Urquiza at

burquiza@comcast.net

IMPORTANT NOTICE: To make sure they don't miss announcements and opportunities, CAT candidates are asked to update their contact information by sending Belinda their current address, email and phone numbers.

Don't forget the silent auction

This year's edition of ASM's silent auction will take place at the Spring Symposium in Crownsville April 8. You know the silent auction, the tables covered with interesting things where crowds of people are lined up to see what is being offered and going back again and again to make sure no one is trying to outbid them.

But there is a problem: To have this take place there has to be a nice array of objects and offerings to lure ASM members. This year, however, not many items have been put forward. This means hopeful buyers will be disappointed, as will the ASM Analysis Fund, which gets the proceeds of the auction.

Elaine Hall, the coordinator, is not looking for rare artifacts (in fact, she *doesn't* want them), but things you might have enjoyed, or made, and think other members might like - books, pottery, ceramics, almost anything, archeology-related or not. Also popular are offers from local merchants for dinners or show tickets (ask someone in your area if they would be willing to participate - you'd be surprised by their response).

Elaine is tired of sitting around twiddling her thumbs. Giving and solicitation forms are with this newsletter. Call Elaine at 240-426-1298 or email at Elaine.frances.hall@gmail.com to arrange getting the items to her.

Williamsburg's Ivor Noël Hume dies at age 89

By Amanda Williams

Condensed from the Virginia Gazette, February 6, 2017

Famed archeologist Ivor Noël Hume, who established historical archeology within the discipline, passed away at his home Williamsburg home Saturday after a short illness. He was 89 years old.

Born in London, Noël Hume made his name in the U.S. as Colonial Williamsburg's chief archeologist, a position he held for three decades, from his move to the area in the 1950s. He was a research associate for the Smithsonian Institution and in 1964 took the helm of Colonial Williamsburg's Department of Archaeology.

One of his most notable discoveries was of a 1600s settlement at Carter's Grove. Nick Luccketti, an archeologist with the James River Institute and First Colony Foundation, helped with that excavation.

"He was brilliant," Luccketti said. "Everyone in the preservation community should be grateful that he chose our field to spend his life in. He would have been brilliant at any career path that he may have chosen."

Born in 1927, Noël Hume studied in England at Framlingham College and St. Lawrence College, and served with the Indian Army in World War II. His archeology career took off when he was hired at London's Guildhall Museum in 1949, before he moved to Colonial Williamsburg in 1957.

Luccketti kept in touch with Noël Hume, working with him over the years and always asking for his advice. They worked together again investigating the "Lost Colony" on Roanoke Island in North Carolina after Noël Hume retired from Colonial Williamsburg.

Just two weeks ago Luccketti met Noël Hume to work on a manuscript they were preparing, compiling finds from the Roanoke excavation to be sent to Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, which owns the island.

Noël Hume's legacy goes far beyond mid-Atlantic archeology circles, Luccketti said.

"He's the Babe Ruth of historical archeology," Luccketti said. "But the principals he espoused in his books about how to conduct proper archeology pertained to the discipline as a whole."

And as for books, Noël Hume wrote dozens of them.

A curator for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Bly Straube, said his writing was eloquent. "He made it so accessible to the general public — history, archeology," she said. "We all tried to emulate him in that way."

He is the reason Straube pursued a career in the field. As a young, "wannabe archeologist" in 1973, she wrote him a letter — and he wrote back. "He's the kind of person where you are amazed that you're living in the same space and time with him, he's a legend," Straube said. "He's just one of those people that the younger archeologists would have thought he must already have been dead, he was so legendary."

Among his long list of recognitions was being named an Officer of the British Empire in 1992.

Noël Hume's first wife, Audrey, was also an archeologist and curator and she worked alongside him at Colonial Williamsburg. The couple never had children and she died in 1993. Noël Hume is survived by his second wife, Carol Noël Hume, and her four children.

(Editor's note: Among Noël Hume's many books is his excellent 2010 autobiography, "A Passion for the Past.")

Field session: May 26 – June 5 in Calvert County

Late March opportunity with Julie King

Excavations at Lower Brambly I (18ST51) in Chaptico, St. Mary's County, will begin on Monday, March 27 and continue through Saturday, April 1. This work will follow up on activities performed by ASM volunteers and others last December.

Lower Brambly I is a 20-acre shell midden located on private property at the conjunction of the Potomac and Wicomico Rivers. It is believed that this site is the location of the Indian town Secomocomoco mapped by Captain John Smith in 1608.

Because the site is threatened by extraordinary storm events and normal tidal activity it is one of the three sites chosen for survey and testing under the grant provided to ASM through the Maryland Historical Trust's grant from the National Park Service pertaining to the effects of Hurricane Sandy.

During the first half of February, Tim Horsley of the University of Northern Illinois conducted (with the assistance of ASM member Brent Chippendale) a remote sensing survey of the site and Julia King of St. Mary's College of Maryland, the principal investigator for the site.

Horsley notes that, while results are yet very preliminary, significant anomalies were found which may be of use in pinpointing areas for special investigation. King echoed this thought by noting that the focus of the field work beginning on March 27 will be to place 5x5-foot squares on those anomalies.

People interested in taking part should contact King at jking@smcm.edu to receive an information and registration packet.

Controversial exhibit to open in New York

By Robin Pogrebin

Condensed from the New York Times, February 22, 2017

A trove of porcelain and other items excavated from an Arab cargo ship will go on view in the U.S. for the first time next month in an exhibition at the Asia Society Museum in New York, six years after another planned display was canceled amid ethical concerns.

The treasure, salvaged from a ship that sank en route from China to the Persian Gulf in the 9th Century, was discovered by commercial sea cucumber divers in 1998 off the coast of Indonesia. It was first shown in 2005 in Singapore, which purchased the contents.

Among the items are solid-gold dishes, a silver wine flask, blue-and-white ceramics and copper mirrors decorated with Tang Chinese patterns of lions, grapevines and flying birds.

In 2011, the cache was scheduled to go on display at the Smithsonian's Sackler Gallery in Washington. However, archeologists and scientists demanded the show's cancellation, arguing that the excavation, by a commercial salvaging company, had been too hasty and had failed to satisfy academic standards — potentially jeopardizing historically important material.

But the Asia Society says its exhibition, "Secrets of the Sea: A Tang Shipwreck and Early Trade in Asia," opening March 7, nevertheless has scholarly value, calling it "one of the most significant archeological finds in recent history."

"It tells a kind of extraordinary story of how more than 1,000 years ago, after the collapse of the Roman Empire, you suddenly had these two great civilizations carrying on this trade, the scale of which is quite incredible," said Boon Hui Tan, the museum's director, in a telephone interview.

"We're not shying from it — we do acknowledge that it is a problem," he added. "We intend to collate together material, including newspaper reports and other commentaries, in the exhibition because we think people do need to be aware of these kinds of issues."

When looters ran rampant: the Pocola miners

By Jack Weatherford

Condensed from his book, "Native Roots"

The Pocola Mining Company had a short life of two years from 1933 to 1935. It operated on one small farm along the Arkansas River outside of Pocola, Oklahoma, where the company dug several tunnels into a handful of hillocks. It made little money, and its owners left no fortunes to its heirs, created no museums and endowed no foundations.

This mining company did not search for coal or metal or uranium or diamonds. The Pocola Mining Company operated as one of the few officially and legally organized mining companies in American history that did not seek to mine any natural resource. Instead, Pocola's founders created the company for the sole purpose of mining cultural resources; they mined the rich deposits of Indian artifacts made and buried in that area. The owners of the Pocola Mining Company dug up what was probably the greatest collection of artifacts and art objects ever discovered in North America.

In 1935 the Star of Kansas City compared the discoveries of the Pocola Mining Company to the recently completed excavations of King Tutankhamun's tomb in Egypt's Valley of the Kings. The mining company had tunneled into the largest of the mounds just outside Spiro, Oklahoma, and found a treasure of pearls, hand-carved beads, necklaces, earspools, carved pipes and other goods carefully crafted from copper, stone, wood and pottery, including effigy pipes, T-shaped pipes, shell and cedar masks, arrowheads, spearpoints, axes, blankets, flint knives up to three feet in length and embossed copper plates and bowls.

They also found hundreds of large conch shells and gorgets that had been carefully engraved. They had been carefully carved from shells and incised with sacred images. The ancient craftsmen had carved many of them with cut-out designs that rendered the hard white shell as delicate and fragile as a lace collar.

The men who mined the Spiro mound sold many of the artifacts at the mouth of the mine, where curiosity seekers and curio collectors came to purchase the pieces for a few cents, or a few dollars for the finest specimens. The miners loaded up crates of the artifacts, which they drove to the East Coast to sell to people from the trunks of their cars.

The Pocola Mining Company looted the mounds with no concern for archeology or history, much less for the rights of the native people whose ancestors made and buried the objects. They did not record what they took or where they sold it. What could not be sold had no value to them. They discarded the pieces of pottery, textiles, feathers and fur for which they found no buyers. They burned the wooden timbers that could later have been used by archeologists to gain valuable information on the people who buried the artifacts. Frequently the miners broke up larger artifacts, such as the carefully engraved conch shells, because they could often get a few more cents for several interesting chunks than they could get for a whole piece.

The surprising find of artifacts by the grave robbers of the Pocola Mining Company revolutionized thought about North American Indians. No one had expected that such objects could have been created by Indians and no academic theories of the time could explain the incredible funerary remains from Spiro.

After two years of looting by the mining company, the state and federal governments finally moved to protect what remained in the mounds. The archeologist Forrest E. Clements of the University of Oklahoma visited the site and later wrote that when the looters realized that they would lose their primary site, they began working faster. By the time the archeologists arrived, the "great mound had been tunneled through and through, gutted in a frenzy of haste."

Before the Pocola Mining Company angrily surrendered its tunnels at Spiro, the looters perpetrated one final act of outrage and revenge on history by wiring the mine and tunnels with dynamite and blowing up as much of it as they could. In a sad testimony to the effect of their work, the dynamite did not do as much damage as the previous two years of tunneling and looting.

<p>Spring Symposium and auction: April 8</p>
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Chapter notes

In addition to the listed chapters, ASM has a chapter at the Community College of Baltimore County, led by Nina Brown, and a club at Huntingtown High School in Calvert County, run by Jeff Cunningham.

Anne Arundel

For information, contact Jim Gibb at <http://JamesGGibb@verizon.net>

Central Chapter

For information contact centralchapterasm@yahoo.com or stephenisrael2701@comcast.net or 410-945-5514. Or on Facebook, www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter or <http://asmcentralchapter.weebly.com/>

Friday, March 24: Stacy Poulos on the effect of shore rise on archaeological sites in Maryland using the ASM field session's River Farm Site's excavations as one of her examples, at NHSM (6908 Belair Road) at 7:30 p.m. A chapter business meeting will begin at 7.

Friday, June 16: Stephen and Barbara Israel will give a power point presentation on their May 2017 trip to the Mesa Verde and Chaco Canyon Pueblo archeological sites and their June 2017 Society of Pennsylvania Archaeology, Empire State Museum Tour, at NHSM at 7:30 p.m. A business meeting will begin at 7.

Sunday, July: Central Chapter is co-partnering with NHSM Nature Connection Archaeology Program. Program TBA.

Charles County

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday (September-May) in the community room of the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Carol Cowherd at ccasm2010@gmail.com. Chapter website is charlescoasm.org and its blog is ccarchsoc.blogspot.com

March 9: Kate Dinnel on "Elusive Artifacts-Archaeological Textiles & Native Plants."

April 13: Esther Doyle Read on tbd

Saturday, May 13 (4:30 p.m.) After a potluck dinner at the Thomas Stone National Historic Site Visitor Center, David Lassman will speak.

September 14: Jim Gibb will speak on "Bones for Beginners II."

October 12: Silas Hurry will discuss "A History of Archeology in Maryland's First Capital."

November 9: Jacob Moschler. TBD

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion in Derwood. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:30 p.m. Contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org or 301-563-7530 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768

March 16: Bob Hines, chapter members and sponsor of Volunteers in Archaeology, will speak on the last year's excavation at the Riggs House in Brookeville.

April 20: Cassandra Michaud, Montgomery County Parks archaeologist, will give a talk entitled, "Josiah Henson Fieldwork and Museum Design Update."

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at digfrederick.com or call 301-378-0212.

March 8: President Don Housley will give a short presentation on his goals for ASM, an update on upcoming ASM events, followed by a question and answer period. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

April 12: Matt McKnight of the Maryland Historical Trust, will discuss the 17th Century occupation at the Biggs Ford site, near Walkersville recently explored in ASM field sessions there. The time TBD.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are usually the second Wednesday of the month. Members and guests assemble at 6:30 for light refreshments. A business meeting at 7 is followed by the presentation at 7:30. Contact Dan Coates at 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

Thursday March 9: Ann Persson and Dan Coates will talk about Cecil's Susquehanna canal, the first real canal in America. Historical Society of Cecil County, Elkton.

Friday, April 7: Becca Peixotto will talk about "The Discovery of Fossil Man in South Africa." Harford Community College, Bel Air.

May/June. Annual Picnic Meeting, at Wilson Mill.

St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at St. Francis Xavier Church in Newtown or at St. Mary's College. For information contact Chris Coogan at Ccoogan@smcm.edu

Upper Patuxent

Meets the second Monday at 7 p.m. at 9944 Route 108 in Ellicott City. Labs are the second and fourth Saturdays. On Facebook, www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358 or try UParchaeologygroup@gmail.com or <http://uparchaeologygroup.weebly.com/>

March 13: Celeste Huecker will talk about the standing stones of Brittany.

April 10: A taped interview with Frederica de Laguna, an early 20th Century archeologist/anthropologist.

Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the LaVale Library, unless noted. Contact Roy Brown, 301-724-7769. Email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

February 24: Roy Brown will report on ASM's 2016 Field Session at the River Farm site in Anne Arundel County.

March 24: David Frederick will show how the use of a group of metal detectorists aided in the undocumented Civil War Fort Piano in West Virginia.

The Archeological Society of Maryland Inc. is a statewide nonprofit organization devoted to the study and conservation of Maryland archeology.

ASM members receive the monthly newsletter, ASM Ink; the biannual journal, MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM events and a 10 percent discount on items sold by the Society. Contact Membership Secretary Rachael Holmes at 875 Boyd Street, Floor 3, Baltimore, MD 21201 for membership rates. For publication sales, not including newsletter or Journal, contact Dan Coates at ASM Publications, 716 Country Club Rd.,

Havre de Grace, MD 21078-2104 or 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net

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