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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

CAT program: advanced archeology

By James Gibb

Condensed from a Society of Historical Archeology blog, April 25, 2012

Citizen-scientists didn't just dominate Maryland archeology until the 1960s, they *were* Maryland archeology. But, as in all areas of scientific endeavor, they were marginalized by a growing body of professional, university-trained scientists.

ASM reversed this trend in 2001 with the creation of the Certified Archeological Technician (CAT) program, offering individuals the opportunity to obtain recognition for formal and extended training in the goals and techniques of archeology without having to participate in an academic degree program.

ASM took several years to develop and implement the program, drawing inspiration from several programs around the USA, notably those of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Virginia. Principal challenges that confronted the organizational committee came largely from the professional community which was very skeptical about the value and wisdom of certifying individuals who did not come through conventional university programs and that insisted on a more thorough academic grounding (largely through a lengthy reading list of regional and national classic studies) than seemed consistent with the objective of the program.

Some of those fears were allayed by including representatives on the CAT committee from the Maryland Historical Trust - the state's principal historic preservation agency and institutional seat of the state historic preservation office - and from the statewide professional organization, the Council for Maryland Archeology. These representatives participate in all discussions regarding program modification and in the "defense" of each candidate for certification.

Most members of the organizational committee brought to the table preconceptions of the purpose of the program. Agency archeologists saw the CAT program as a training ground for prospective volunteers. Other participants thought that successful candidates might use their credentials to take jobs away from those in the private sector who had completed more conventional training programs.

The more skeptical professional members feared that CAT awardees would use their certification as legitimization for unscientific collecting, misrepresenting themselves to gain access to sites on private and public properties for personal gain.

In the end, the committee established the current purpose of the program: to meet the needs of ASM members seeking formal archeological training, without assuming personal motivations, and a signed ethics statement providing sufficient insurance against misrepresentation. Since Annetta Schott became the first candidate to complete the program (2003), none of these fears have been realized and the CAT program has become noncontroversial and institutionalized.

The key to the success of the CAT program and the concept that has allayed most fears lies within

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Upcoming events

November 3: CAT workshops. See below.

November 30: Forensics Friday with Jamestown archeologists. Smithsonian Natural History Museum. 1-4 p.m.

December 1: ASM board meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

Volunteer opportunities

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

The **Smithsonian Environmental Research Center** seeks participants in its Citizen-Scientist Program in archeology and other environmental research programs in Edgewater. Archeological field and lab work are conducted during the week and on occasional Saturdays. Contact Julia Elkin at ElkinJ@si.edu or 443-482-3611.

Montgomery County is offering opportunities for lab and field work Wednesdays, 9:30 to 2:30. Call 301-840-5848 or contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org. CAT opportunity.

ASM field session collection: Volunteers have finished upgrading the ASM field school collection. They are working on the Rosenstock (Frederick County) material. The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. Contact Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall chall@mdp.state.md.us.

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County welcomes volunteers for its prolific Pig Point prehistoric site. Fridays. Call Jessie Grow 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 echaney@mdp.state.md.us 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. Remember to add the extra A in archaeological.

CAT corner

A CAT Weekend has been set for Saturday, November 3 at the Agricultural History Farm Park in Montgomery County with a workshops on historic ceramics and a keynote speech. A program and directions are with this newsletter. A workshop on Native American ceramics will be given by Bob Wall early next year.

For information on the CAT program, and updates, visit the ASM website.

Why use GPR? Try this cat program instead

ROME, Oct. 19 (UPI) -- Two Italian men chasing a wayward cat in Rome say the animal led them into a previously undiscovered 2,000-year-old tomb full of bones.

Mirko Curti said he and a friend were following the cat when it scampered towards a low rock cliff near his home in a residential area of the city.

"The cat managed to get into a grotto and we followed the sound of its meowing," he said.

In an opening in the cliff the two men found niches dug into the rock similar to those used by the Romans to hold funeral urns and also saw human bones scattered on the floor, the British newspaper The Guardian reported Thursday.

Archeologists who examined the site said the tomb probably dated from the 1st century B.C. and the 2d century A.D.

Heavy rains earlier in the week probably caused rocks concealing the entrance to the tomb to crumble, they said.

Guess what? Its membership renewal time

Beat the Christmas rush and send in your membership renewal now. Don't make life difficult for the new membership secretary, fill out the form and send it in now. It is available online at the ASM website. And while you are at it, consider upgrading your membership or making a donation to help with ASM projects. Grant money from the state has dried up because of budget cutting so your support will mean a lot to furthering our goals of finding, protecting and educating.

Israel wins Marye, new officers named

ASM's Annual Meeting brought more than 50 members to LaPlata. In addition to four well-received speeches, election ballots were tabulated and new officers announced and the second annual silent auction collected \$1,392.50.

This year's winner of the William B. Marye Award for outstanding contributions in Maryland archeology is Stephen S. Israel. In presenting the award, ASM President Claude Bowen said, in part:

The recipient this year is well known for his willingness to take on almost any task that will further the discipline of archeology in Maryland and his generosity with his time in assisting and guiding avocational archeologists.

In providing their reasoning for their selection, the committee noted his long years of service to Maryland archeology, beginning in 1968 with the Saunder's Point Site in Anne Arundel County.

After serving in the military, including deployment in Vietnam, Stephen completed his master's degree in anthropology at the University of Oklahoma in 1969. From 1976 until his retirement in 2003, he worked as an archeologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with responsibility for research activities covering four states.

His work outside of his duties to the government included assisting archeologist not only in Maryland but in adjacent states as well. In 2007, the Archeological Society of Virginia presented him with their Out-of-State Award for outstanding service to Virginia archeology.

This year's recipient is a regular and enthusiastic participant in ASM meetings and related activities. ASM can always count on him to support CAT program activities as well as the annual field sessions. He is a frequent contributor to the journal Maryland Archeology.

He is active with the Council for Maryland Archeology, the Eastern States Archaeological Federation, the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference and with archeological organizations in several states. He is presently taking the lead in planning for the 2014 annual meeting of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation that will be held on Solomon's Island in October of 2014.

On a personal note, I first met Stephen on a muggy summer's morning in 1989 at the Patuxent Point site on the Patuxent River near Solomon's Island. Stephen has been an inspiration to me as he has for many of us here today. His guidance, example and knowledge have been an invaluable resource to all of us who have been honored to know and work with Stephen through the years.

Also at the meeting, results of this year's ASM election were announced. The new officers are:

President -- Claude Bowen

Vice president - Laura Cripps

Secretary - Belinda Urquiza

Membership secretary - Robin Martin

Treasurer -- Jim Gibb

At-large Trustees: Lynn Bulhack, Elaine Hall, Valerie Hall, Barbara Israel, Annetta Schott and Jaimie Wilder.

Archeologists probe 1812 battle site

By Julie Schablitsky

Condensed from CRAB, the State Highway Administration Newsletter, Fall 2012

(To commemorate the War of 1812 bicentennial, the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) secured a National Park Service, American Battlefield Protection Program grant to conduct an archeology survey across Caulk's Battlefield. The battle was an American win and the site remains relatively unaltered. DBED chose the Maryland State Highway Administration and University of Maryland to carry out the archeology survey and mapping project to determine troop and artillery locations, areas of intense fighting and battlefield boundaries.)

At the end of August 1814, the citizens of Kent County observed British ships in the Chesapeake Bay. British Captain Peter Parker held his frigate, HMS *Menelaus*, just off of Poole's Island in an attempt to disrupt communications between Easton and Baltimore. While stationed here, Parker landed his men to take supplies from local farms and to burn private property occupied by the American troops.

On the night of August 30, 1814 the burning and looting of Richard Frisby's farm resulted in the capture of four enslaved African Americans: William, aged about 25; Ephraim, aged about 22; Solomon, aged about 20, and Peregrine, aged about 17. When the British interrogated the slaves that night, Captain Parker learned that American Lieut. Col. Reed's camp was located just a short distance away. Trusting the word of these men, the British landed around 11 that evening to search out and destroy the American camp, take prisoners and extract information from the troops.

At 11:30 p.m., Reed received word from his picket that the British landed near Waltham's farm. Believing their intent was to burn and pillage, Reed took his men and marched towards Waltham's farm. Within minutes Reed learned the British were actually in pursuit of them!

At this point, he turned his men around, moved their camp into Caulk's field and positioned the troops on "...the rising ground—the right towards Caulk's house and the left retiring on the road, the artillery in the centre, supported by the infantry on the right and left."

While a fortified line took the center of the field, an advance troop of Americans laid in wait for the British. As the British presented themselves, the Americans fired into them and then fell back to the fortified line with the artillery pieces. The fighting ensued and the British attempted to take the American left flank, but were unsuccessful. They continued to push the front American line and caused Reed to fall back.

After almost an hour of fighting, Reed's men found themselves almost out of ammunition, but continued to hold their position. After dozens of casualties including the death of their leader, Captain Peter Parker, the British quit the field and returned to the *Menelaus*.

In the spring and fall of 2012, the SHA and UMD archeologists conducted a metal detector survey across 40 acres of the battlefield to find evidence of this 200-year-old military engagement. The archeologists attempted to detect the locations of lead and ferrous munitions (lead musket balls and canister shot), brass clothing buttons and other battle related artifacts.

Each time that an artifact was found, an archeologist mapped the location with a total station to record the exact position it was found. The artifact was then bagged and collected for study in the laboratory.

Although the archeologists are only half way through their survey, it is possible to determine where the men stood and where their artillery guns were placed on the landscape. Future surveys will determine the battlefield boundaries and other unique details. A public release of findings will occur in November.

CAT Workshop coming Nov. 3

A CAT workshop on historical ceramics and on recording site-survey forms is being held Saturday, November 3 in Montgomery County. The all-day program also features a talk by new ASM Vice President Laura Cripp on "Late Iron Age and Roman period sites in France and England."

Preregistration is encouraged so organizers can know how much handout material is needed. Contact BOTH Alex McPhail at amcphail@worldbank.org and Belinda Urquiza at burquiza@comcast.net) by October 30. Participation in the ceramics presentation is limited to 30 people. CAT candidates have preference for the Workshop, but others will be accepted if there is room. The workshop is free and a program is elsewhere in this newsletter. Participants should bring lunch.

CAT program: advanced archeology

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the program name. The 'T' stands for technician, not scientist. Here we modify the citizen-scientist concept in recognition that archeology differs from most fields of scholarly endeavor in that destruction of physical evidence often is unavoidable, a circumstance not generally encountered in cataloging stars, conducting bird counts or observing whale behavior.

Each candidate (aged 16 or older) pays a nominal one-time fee (\$50) and agrees to abide by the statement of ethics. Candidates pick or are assigned a mentor who answers procedural questions; identifies field, laboratory and archival research opportunities; recommends readings and provides copies of difficult to acquire publications, and serves in all other ways one might expect of a mentor.

Candidates complete a course of directed reading; keep a journal and complete required numbers of hours in different aspects of fieldwork (mapping, survey, excavation) and laboratory work, prepare forms for registering newly discovered sites, and participate in a series of required and optional workshops offered by professional archeologists, including archeological law and ethics, overviews of state archeology, historic and aboriginal ceramics and lithic analysis.

ASM's annual field session in archeology, conducted over 11 days each spring in partnership with the Maryland Historical Trust since 1974, provides opportunities for candidates to fulfill many requirements, but other state, county and foundation programs, as well as some opportunities offered by the private sector, are integral to the program.

The CAT program appears to be an unqualified success, both in terms of meeting the specific personal goals of individual participants and in providing programs for ASM members who are not candidates. Presentation of awards to the two latest graduates at ASM's annual Spring Symposium publicly recognizes their achievements and inspires others to join and complete the program (current enrolment is 48 in an organization of just over 300).

Producing one to two graduates each year, the CAT committee is considering other program developments, including a "Kitten" program for adolescents, an advanced level for CAT graduates and prospective roles in future programs for graduates, most of whom remain active in ASM.

The committee also has begun to work more closely with comparable programs in the neighboring states of Delaware and Virginia and encourages candidates to participate in legitimate archeological projects outside of the state.

I would like to see graduates directing field and laboratory projects under nominal professional direction, work proceeding without constant supervision. Would we realize the worst fears of the program's early opponents? Or would we greatly expand the capacity of the professional community to explore the past? A worthwhile experiment?

Gibb was the first director of ASM's CAT program.

CAT's first graduate was in 2003. The 14 graduates, in order, are: Annetta Schott, George Evans, Roy Brown, Myron Beckenstein, Kathy Steuer, Dan Coates, Carol Cowherd, Maryl Harshey, Vivian Eike, Benton Watson, Belinda Urquiza, Barbara Israel, Valerie Hall and Dave Frederick.

ASM Notes

Test your new historic ceramic knowledge

Volunteers are needed to assist with the categorization and analysis of ceramics from recent excavations by Howard Community College students at Historic Simpsonville. Although all ceramics will have been washed, identified and tabulated by HCC students, a keen eye is required to a) check the identifications and b) assist with determining the date range of the assemblage, vessel typologies, etc.
 Saturday, Dec. 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Mt. Ida in Ellicott City. Contact Barbara Israel at 410-945-5514 or baisrael@verizon.net for information.

Setting up a Facebook page for ASM

Conrad Bladey is setting up a Facebook page for ASM. Anyone interested in helping please contact him at cbladey@verizon.net

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

Meets five times a year in February, April, June, September and November at the home of Pat and Stephen Hittle, 102 Evon Court, Severna Park. 7:30 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns at AACHapASM@hotmail.com or the chapter website www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php

Central Maryland

Central Chapter has no formal meetings planned, but it does engage in field work and related activities. Contact chapter President Stephen Israel, 410-945-5514 or ssisrael@verizon.net

Charles County

Meetings are held 7 on the second Thursday (September-May) in the community room of the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Carol Cowherd at cowherdcl@gmail.com or 301-375-9489. Chapter website is charlescoasm.org and its blog is ccarchsoc.blogspot.com

December 13: Michael Lucas will talk about the War of 1812 at Nottingham.

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:45 p.m. Contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org or call 301-840-5848 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com

November 15: Heather Bouslog and Cassandra Michaud will conduct a cataloguing workshop using the Josiah Henson artifacts collected this summer, at Needwood Mansion. 6 p.m. Bring your own dinner or \$5 for pizza, salad and drinks.

December: Holiday party

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 contact Nancy Geasey at 301-378-0212 or Jeremy Lazelle at jlazelle@msn.com or call 301-378-0212.

November 14: Mary Ann Gearing will report on her mission visit to the Rosebud Reservation of the Lakota Sioux.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are 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>

November 14: "Cresthull Redux: The Kolomoki Site and the Cresthull Collection," by Bill McIntyre and Dan Coates. Havre de Grace City Hall.

December 13: University of Maryland professor Lindley Van of early Christian sites in Turkey. Annual Appreciation and Awards Dinner. I.O.O.F. Hall, Aberdeen.

January 9: Amanda Koss, "A Birdwatcher's Experience at Machu Picchu, Peru." Havre de Grace City Hall.

February 13: Jim Gibb on the results of the May 2012 field session. Historical Society of Harford County, Bel Air.

March 13: - TBA (biblical archeology site). Harford Jewish Center, Havre de Grace.

April: Friday date TBA. Annual Maryland Archeology Month Presentation. Edgewood Hall, Harford Community College, Bel Air.

May: Sunday date TBA. Annual ASNC Picnic. Upper Bay Museum, North East.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at Mt. Ida in Ellicott City. Potluck suppers are held at 5:45 in September and March. Otherwise, dinner is available at the Diamondback in Ellicott City at 5:30 p.m. Contact Dave Cavey at 410 747-0093 or hoplite1@comcast.net NOTE EARLIER STARTING TIMES

November 12: Jim Gibb will talk about a new program at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Anne Arundel County that now involves archeology.

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. Chapter email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

November 10: Field trip to Fort Necessity National Battlefield, a French and Indian War site.



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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% discount on items sold by the Society. Contact Membership Secretary Belinda Urquiza for membership rates. For publication sales, contact Dan Coates at ASM Publications, 716 Country Club Rd., Havre de Grace, MD 21078-2104 or 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net

Submissions welcome. Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 6817 Pineway, University Park, MD. 20782, 301-864-5289 or myronbeck@verizon.net

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