



ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Workshop, Symposium are coming up

Two major annual ASM activities will be taking place in the next few weeks, the Archeology Workshop and the Spring Symposium. Each is an all-day Saturday affair at the People's Community Center in Crownsville, the workshop on March 18, the symposium two weeks later.

The workshop will offer a variety of programs in four time slots, giving participants a choice of topics during most of the day.

The opening talk takes a new look at one of the most famous tragedies in the history of the American West, the Donner Party that became trapped in the Sierras during a blizzard in 1846 and reportedly turned to cannibalism. Julie M. Schablitsky, a University of Oregon anthropologist, will make use of archeological data, psychological and physiological analogies and new technologies to try to reconstruct what happened.

Later on, Bob Wall, of Towson University, will tell about the results of his years of digging at the Barton Site along the Potomac River in Western Maryland. The site contains components ranging backward from an unanticipated Susquehannock contact period settlement.

The Bald Friar petroglyphs, originally found along the Susquehanna River in northeast Maryland, were in the news recently when custodianship was transferred to the Maryland Historical Trust. Charlie Hall, of the Trust, will give a history of the rock carvings and talk about the effort to save them.

Speaking of rocks, Susan Langley, of the Trust, will offer a session letting people try their hand at painting rocks. Although the session is aimed at children 6 to 12, older people will be welcome.

Putting things together will be the subject of two talks. Howard Wellman, of the MAC Lab at Jefferson Patterson Park, will show how broken ceramics are filled in and reassembled. Primitive technologist Tim Thoman will demonstrate the ABCs of making and using prehistoric cordage. Both sessions will offer hands-on opportunities.

Maritime archeology will have its time. David P. Howe will give information on the SHIP Project and its search for sites in local waters. The weekend divers have checked out 46 locations recently and will be looking for people interested in joining them. Steve Anthony and Tom Berkey of MAHS will give an update on the search for remains of Civil War ships from the 1862 Peninsula Campaign along the Pamunkey River.

In a two-part program, Silas Hurry and Kate Dinnel, southern Maryland archeologists, will present an overview of the basics of historical archeology, concentrating on Maryland. The sessions are designed for CAT candidates, but will be open to the public if there is room.

On April 1, the Spring Symposium, thinking ahead to 2007, will look at the meeting not only of the Old and

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Upcoming events

March 4: ASM board meeting, Crownsville. 10 a.m. All are welcome.

March 18: Archeology workshop. Crownsville.

April: Archeology Month. See schedule of events at www.marylandarcheology.org/Arch_Month/Index4.htm

April 1: Spring Symposium. Crownsville.

May 6-7: Annual primitive technology weekend at Oregon Ridge in Baltimore County.

Volunteer opportunities

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

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

ASM field session collection: Volunteers are needed to work on up-grading collections associated with previous field sessions. Currently, the collection from the Rosenstock Site, a key Late Woodland Montgomery Complex area, is being upgraded. The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. For additional information contact Louise Akerson rakerson@comcast.net or Charlie Hall hall@dhcd.state.md.us.

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County. 410-222-7441.

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

Jefferson Patterson Park invites volunteers to take part in its various activities, including archeology, historical research and artifact conservation. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 410-586-8501.

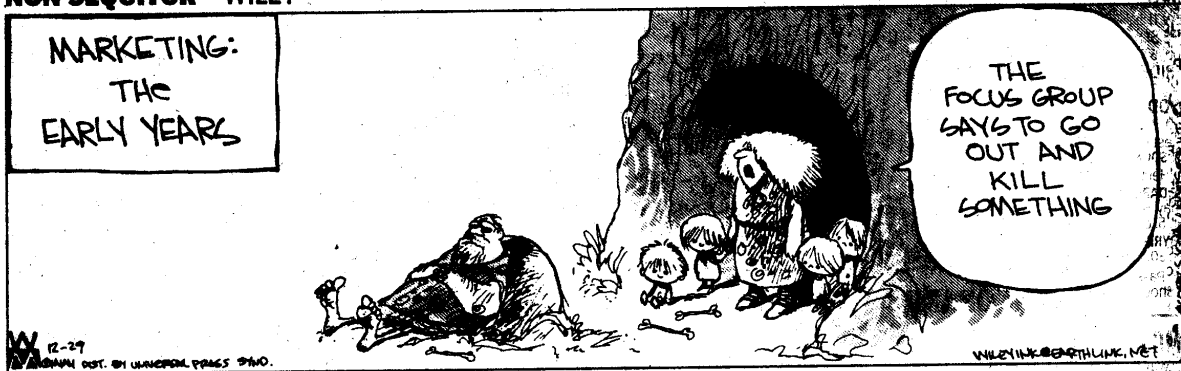
The Archaeological Institute of America provides an online listing of fieldwork opportunities worldwide, Call up www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/ to get started. Remember to add the extra A in archaeology.

CAT corner

An overview of historical archeology will be held at the Annual Workshop in Crownsville March 18. For updates and information on CAT activities check the ASM website.

Special fieldwork opportunity: Richard Ervin of SHA is working on the Broad Creek Cemetery, a 17th through 19th Century cemetery on Kent Island. On occasion and on very short notice, it is necessary for him to conduct emergency excavations in preparation for new interments. Contact him at 410-545-2878 (days), 410-643-7128 (evenings) or by email at rervin@sha.state.md.us

NON SEQUITUR WILEY



Ehrlich wants Trust to move to PG County

By Jill Rosen

Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, February 14, 2006

Baltimore lawmakers say a plan that would move 110 state jobs from the city to Prince George's County smells more like election-year politics than a good idea.

Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. included more than \$3 million in next year's proposed budget to move the state Department of Planning from the State Center complex, ostensibly to get the department's disparate offices under one roof.

However, some say the move is a thinly veiled attempt to woo votes in one of the state's most densely Democratic regions.

Planning Secretary Audrey E. Scott said the move is purely to accommodate the Maryland Historic Trust's recent merger into her department. The trust's 43 employees are based in Crownsville.

Scott said she would like to house everyone in Baltimore. But after "personally walking all the floors" of State Center, she said she knew that the office would need to move - ideally to a location that would allow another municipality to share in the wealth of state offices.

Baltimore has bragging rights to 80 percent of state agency headquarters, Scott told a House appropriations subcommittee yesterday. Prince George's, the second-largest Maryland county, has none, though it claims the University of Maryland's main campus.

"There is a hope," Scott said, "that we could be a little more even and fair."

The planning secretary also said the department was likely going to have to move in a few years anyway, to make way for an ambitious redevelopment of the State Center complex on West Preston Street.

Last fall, the department solicited information on sites in Greenbelt, New Carrollton and Largo.

Planning Department employees, who have balked almost unanimously at the move, packed the legislative hearing yesterday. More than half of the department's 110 employees based at State Center live in Baltimore City or Baltimore County, officials say.

Ehrlich also included \$450,000 to pay "retention bonuses" of \$3,000 to employees who make the move.

In a sternly worded report released yesterday, legislative analysts recommended cutting the money for the move and the bonuses, calling the plan "questionable," "premature" and "inconsistent with legislative intent."

When the Ehrlich administration sought legislative approval last year to transfer the Maryland Historic Trust to the Department of Planning, officials told lawmakers that it would cost \$577,600 to move everyone into State Center.

The report said "it seems reasonable" that the Planning Department could still fit the merged employees into the Baltimore office and, if not, then deciding to move to Prince George's is "premature and currently unfounded."

Eleanor Wilcox dies at 90, was active in ASM

By Rona Marech

Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, February 12, 2006

Eleanor Wilcox, an artist and writer whose fascination with American Indian culture and the outdoors inspired her to write two books for teenagers, died Monday of heart failure at Genesis Eldercare Perring Parkway Center in Parkville. She was 90 and was a longtime Forest Park resident.

Born Eleanor Reindollar in Baltimore, she attended Western High School and Maryland Institute College of Art, where she studied fashion design.

She met her future husband, George C. Wilcox Jr., while they were both students at MICA, and their 52-year marriage was marked by creativity. When they were students, the two collaborated every year on elaborate pirate and gypsy outfits to wear to the school's spring costume ball.

Mr. Wilcox died in 1996.

"They were ideally suited for each other," said son David William Wilcox of Carney.

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During World War II, Mrs. Wilcox worked at the central Enoch Pratt library, where she was responsible for the window displays. She also worked at the Maryland Academy of Sciences, which later created the Maryland Science Center.

After the birth of her two sons, Mrs. Wilcox took a job as a secretary at the Park School and wrote two books for young readers. The Cornhusk Doll, published by Dodd, Mead and Co. in 1955, chronicled the adventures of a girl who was kidnapped by American Indians during the French-Indian War.

Mrs. Wilcox was captivated by the richness and variety of American Indian culture, her son said, and she and her husband researched the book for more than 10 years. He recounted how his mother would read sections of it to him and his brother as she wrote.

The book won the Dodd, Mead Librarian Prize Competition for librarians who were writers.

A second book, Mr. Simm's Argosy, published in 1958, focused on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay. It told the story of a man who taught children about life on the water.

She and her husband, an artist, collaborated on a third manuscript that was never published, her son said.

An avid hiker, she was a member of the Mountain Club of Maryland and, into her 80s, was part of the Archeological Society of Maryland. She explored American Indian and Colonial sites with the group, whose newsletter she edited for many years.

Mrs. Wilcox loved cats and enjoyed gardening and reading. She was also a fan of the author J.R.R. Tolkien, whose imaginary societies thrilled her.

Rarely in a bad mood, Mrs. Wilcox possessed an enviable cheerfulness, her son said, adding, "If I could bottle it, I'd be a millionaire."

(Editor's note: The Wilcoxes shared the 1990 ASM William B. Marye Award for their contributions to Maryland archeology.)

Interior Dept. charges Indians for winning

By the Associated Press

Condensed from the Washington Post, February 5, 2006

Interior Department officials, ordered to pay \$7 million to lawyers for American Indians suing the government over lost royalties, cut Indian programs to find most of the money.

Jim Cason, associate deputy interior secretary, said the cuts will include \$2 million from a fund for lawyers performing tribal work and \$1 million from Bureau of Indian Affairs' central and regional offices and some tribal programs. The decision will not affect schools or public safety.

Cason said he tried to spread the cuts so they would have the least impact on Indians. But he said the court order gave him no option but to take the money from the BIA, one of several agencies the department oversees. "This was not a Park Service or a Fish and Wildlife problem, it's an Indian problem," he said.

The Indian plaintiffs called the decision a "devious and deceptive" attempt to punish Indians for winning in court.

"This is totally unreal," said Elouise Cobell, a Blackfeet Indian and the lead plaintiff in the lawsuit. The U.S. District Court issued the order in response to a petition from the plaintiffs in their 10-year-old lawsuit. The plaintiffs had originally asked for \$14 million.

Indians accuse the government in a class-action lawsuit of mishandling more than \$100 billion in lost oil, gas, grazing, timber and other royalties from their lands dating to 1887. They sued to force the government to account for the lost money but now say they are willing to settle for \$27.5 billion -- an amount some lawmakers have said is too high.

More than \$2 million of the cuts came from the Indian trust office and the office making a historical tally of Indians' trust accounts. Almost all of the money set aside to reimburse tribal lawyers -- who work on water rights and boundary issues, among other legal matters -- was cut. About \$1.7 million will come from the Treasury Department.

Cobell said the department knew it would be asked to pay attorney's fees and should have set aside a fund.

Preservation vs. access: a case study

By John Newton

The recent preservation-in-place of early railroad artifacts by the Maryland Transit Administration is a good example of the tension between historic preservation practices, compliance with federal and state laws, and the public's desire to have access to local historic materials.

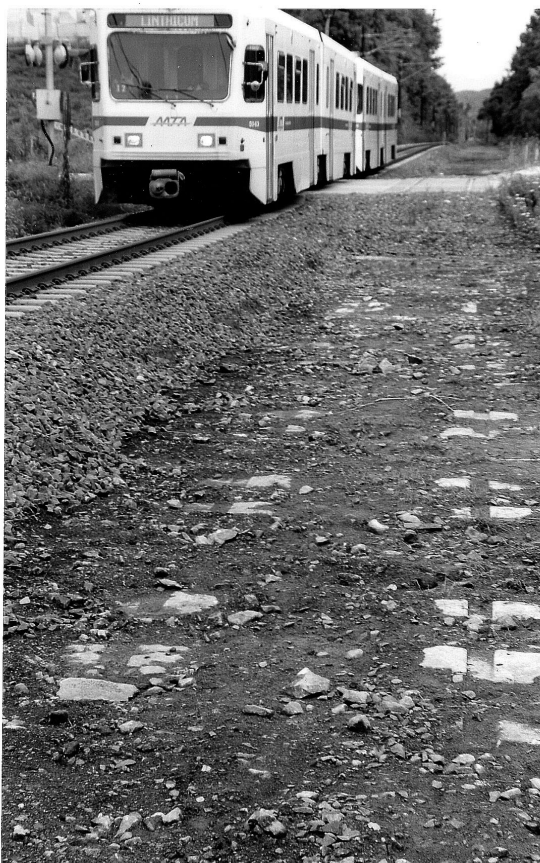
During construction in the early 1990s of Baltimore's Central Light Rail Line in the Texas area of northern Baltimore County, evidence of an early railroad stone block track bed was uncovered near the overpass of Padonia Road and at the at-grade crossing of Industry Lane. The artifacts went unnoted at the time, only to be uncovered once again during construction for a second track of the light rail system in the late 1990s. And there the tale begins, with the MTA proposing to re-bury the blocks, early-railroad enthusiasts arguing to excavate them for display and the Maryland Historical Trust playing referee.

The light rail line follows the right of way of the Baltimore & Susquehanna Railroad, which ran from Baltimore City north into Pennsylvania. Chartered in the 1820s, it, along with the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, was one of the earliest railroads in the expanding United States.

The use of stone blocks for rail support had been a technology used in England, but was not widely used in the United States since the mid-Atlantic forests provided a source of cheaper wooden ties. One theory on why stone ties appear in the Texas area holds the nearby limestone and marble quarries made a deal with the railroad to use its product in that area, providing for

construction of the rail line in exchange for service to their quarry operations.

In any case, building a second light rail track uncovered a line of marble blocks at Padonia Road overpass and Industry Lane. Since the double track project was partially funded with federal dollars, the MTA needed to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which requires the involvement of the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the State Historic Preservation Officer (the SHPO, whose office in Maryland is in the Maryland Historical Trust) if historic resources are involved.



The MTA contracted with a historic preservation firm to evaluate what was found and then consulted with the Trust on next steps. It was agreed that there were no research questions that could be answered by removing the stones, as this type of construction was not unique. It is a basic preservation tenet that if you do not have a good reason to disturb the resource, it is best left in place. Should unanticipated questions come up later, you will have protected undisturbed artifacts for future researchers to explore.

It was at this point things began to get a bit complicated. Because the blocks were within the

right of way of the new track, this meant that they would be buried under the ballast for the second track. The early railroad enthusiasts have a good network (actually one helped on the report for the MTA) and when they heard that the blocks were to be "buried," they began a campaign to have the MTA remove them before the second track

Continued on next page

was put down. From their perspective, the early artifacts were going to be "lost" again.

Calls were made to the MTA Office of Planning. The MTA maintained that, while appreciating the concern, it was in the best interest of the state and future railroad researchers to leave the blocks in place. But it agreed with the Trust to provide an interpretive marker near the location of the blocks, explaining their story.

When this proved unsatisfactory to the railroaders, letters were then written to the Maryland Secretary of Transportation, arguing for excavation and public display. The enthusiasts even offered to dig them out themselves. Since interested parties have the right to participate in decision-making under Section 106, the MTA was requested by the Secretary's Office to respond.

After several unsatisfactory phone calls and letters, the MTA suggested that the enthusiasts contact the Trust to confirm that the proposed plan was not unreasonable. The Trust advised that without a research question to justify excavation, it could not agree to a permit to remove the blocks.

Further, the idea of setting up a display of the blocks did not justify excavation since the stone rail bed technology could be seen at several locations in the region. Finally, the Trust felt reasonably certain that knowledge and location of the blocks would not be lost since the MTA had filed a report and survey map with the trust.

Teeth lead to earliest known slaves in Americas

By Marc Kaufman

From the Washington Post, February 6, 2006

What may be the oldest remains of African slaves ever found in the Western Hemisphere have been unearthed in the Mexican city of Campeche and dated to the period between the late 1500s and the mid-1600s.

The remains, identified as of African origin through telltale chemicals from the enamel of their teeth, appear to confirm early written histories that described African slaves accompanying explorers and colonists to the New World in the period not long after Christopher Columbus first arrived.

The new study, published in the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, was based on the analysis of teeth from four individuals found in a large multiethnic burial ground near the ruins of a colonial church in an old port city on the Yucatan Peninsula. Archeological evidence and ancient maps suggest that the graveyard was in use from about 1550 to the late 1600s. The site was uncovered in 2000 by construction workers.

The discovery means that "slaves were brought here almost as soon as Europeans arrived," said T. Douglas Price of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, lead author of the paper. He speculated that the slaves may have been used as domestic servants.

Price and other researchers began studying the site because of distinctive chipping on the teeth, a decorative practice common in Africa. The work was part of a larger effort to study the movement of peoples around ancient Mesoamerica using chemical analysis of teeth. That is done through the study of isotopes of the element strontium, which enters the body through food and is found in all teeth. The strontium isotopes can be identified as coming from particular parts of the world.

Funds finally on way for Cahokia Mounds

By the Associated Press, February 19, 2006

COLLINSVILLE, Ill. -- For years, administrators at Cahokia Mounds longed to acquire more property near the ruins of a prehistoric city, fearing that artifacts on the coveted private land could be lost to development. But they lacked the money to do it.

Their concerns eased last week after the state released \$837,800 earmarked years ago for expanding the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, which is one of the largest archeological sites in the country. The site, with its distinctive earthen mounds built for Indian burials and ceremonies, spans 2,200 acres of the original 4,000 acres.

Archeologists say that the once-thriving city just west of this St. Louis suburb was home to as many as 20,000 Mississippian Indians. Cahokia, thought to have been inhabited from A.D. 700 to A.D. 1400, was among the most complex, sophisticated societies of prehistoric North America.

The prehistoric city originally had 120 mounds, and the locations of 109 have been recorded. The state historic site includes about 70 of the mounds, ranging in height from about 5 feet to 100 feet. Many others have been altered or destroyed by modern farming and urban sprawl.

At its peak, about A.D. 1100 to A.D. 1200 researchers say, the city covered nearly six square miles and had as many as 20,000 inhabitants. The site was abandoned by 1400 and remained uninhabited until Illini Indians moved into the area about 1650.

Its tallest landmark, the 100-foot-tall Monks Mound, is made up of 22 million cubic feet of dirt. It is the largest pre-Columbian structure north of Mexico and the largest all-earthen pyramid in the New World.

Utahan tries to eliminate state archeologist

By the Associated Press, February 6, 2006

SALT LAKE CITY -- Rep. Bradley T. Johnson is trying to eliminate the state archeologist's post and move authority over excavating land with archeologic resources from the state Antiquities Section to the Public Lands Policy Coordination Office.

"I do believe really strongly that we need to protect the archeological resources of the state, but there are some out there, be it chippings or whatever it is, that we probably don't need every one of these minor sites," Johnson said.

His bill also would require the state's historic preservation officer consult with the policy coordination office on any comments about projects affecting historic property.

Supporters of the bill contend it would expedite energy development in Utah.

Last year, the Aurora Republican's proposal to transfer the state archeologist and staff out of the Utah Division of State History and into the Division of Wildlife Resources failed. But this year's bill, HB139, "State Antiquities and Historic Sites Amendments," has been endorsed by the House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee.

HB139 also states that a project's "principal investigator ... may allow other individuals to assist ... in a survey or excavation." The assistant must have a graduate degree in anthropology, archeology or history or "experience equivalent to a graduate degree" and have a year of supervised experience in archeology.

State law currently requires that archeological projects, such as clearances for highway construction, be carried out by registered professional archeologists. That's a higher standard than the equivalent of a graduate degree in history and some experience.

Another provision is that before spending money or approving archeology projects, state agencies must take into account their costs. If the Antiquities Section doesn't like what's going on, it can complain to the Public Lands Policy Coordination Office.

Members of the Utah Professional Archeological Council overwhelmingly oppose HB139, says a letter signed by the council president, Lori Hunsaker.

"The permitting process and standards outlined in HB139 appoint a new and separate committee that currently lacks any archeological expertise," it said. It said the coordination office is "poorly suited to evaluate the quality of work and experience" of would-be permittees.

"Historical and archeological resources are irreplaceable remains of our cultural heritage that provide our community with tourist dollars, as well as information about what happened in the past and insight into our everyday existence," it said.

Rep. Mike Noel, R-Kanab, said he had e-mails from archeologists both opposing and supporting the measure. John Harja, assistant director of the coordination office, said he helped put together the current law 14 years ago, "But the landscape was a lot different back then. There weren't nearly as many companies doing archeological or historical work as today. And some of that is starting to strain the structure."

Book review: Updating the pre-1491 world

1491, New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus. Charles C. Mann. Knopf. 465 pages. \$30.

Old perceptions of the cultures of the Americas before Columbus are being challenged and almost daily we hear of new discoveries that are re-writing the history of the Americas. Charles C. Mann's "1491" explores the latest theories, scientific discoveries and archeological breakthroughs relating to the peopling of the Americas.

A consistent theme runs through his book: Indian cultures were more sophisticated and more diverse and the New World much more populous than was supposed by the inhabitants of the Old World. Indians didn't have the wheel, but they had art, religion, music, government, a complex calendar, were able to grasp and use the concept of zero (long before the Europeans discovered this concept) and had an economy which thrived with the trading of goods and ideas between societies.

Mann asks the reader to pay attention and to keep an open mind as he offers a wealth of information, while hop-scotching from one archeological / historical site to another and from one continent to another. I found myself re-reading portions of the book and frequently referring back to the various maps. Mann also provides an extensive bibliography, appendix and notes (111 pages in all).

Mann, a correspondent for *Science* and *Atlantic Monthly* magazines, and co-author of four previous books, proposes that there was more than one migration across the Bering Strait and Paleo-Indians might have traveled across the Pacific in boats to settle along the coast of the Americas 10- or even 20,000 years before our previous timeline suggests.

He suggests that when Europeans first set foot in the New World, they expected an empty continent just waiting with riches to be plundered. Well, imagine the surprise of Cortez and Pizarro when they encountered the complex societies of the Maya and Inca covering vast areas of the southern Americas, or of other explorers who encountered the large mound complexes of central North America and the multitude of villages along the Atlantic coast. It is thought that the population of the Americas numbered approximately 100 million prior to contact.

Another Mann contention is that the Indian populations changed their environments through extensive irrigation canals and other farming practices. When Hernando de Soto explored Florida, Texas and Tennessee in the 1500s, he found many large villages growing extensive plots of corn using slash and burn farming. The Indians would purposely torch other large areas to create grasslands to attract small and large game animals upon which they depended for food and for the materials to create tools, clothing and shelter. Contradicting the presumption that the Indians were early, placid, idyllic conservationists, living as one with each other and nature, the competition between tribes for these areas was fierce and frequently brutal.

European contact brought many diseases, most notoriously, small pox. Other diseases that played a role were typhus, influenza, diphtheria and measles. The Europeans also brought livestock and plants that carried organisms and diseases for which the indigenous people, animals and plants had no natural immunity. The complex trading system created a highway of infection that spread rapidly from village to village to the Indians and their prey animals. Native plants were infected with "foreign" diseases and many European species just overran the habitat of the indigenous plants, animals and birds. This led to widespread death that was more devastating to the populations of the Western Hemisphere than the Plague was in Europe. For example; when in the 1600s La Salle arrived in the areas de Soto had visited, he found many game animals but no Indian villages for over 200 miles.

"1491" is a thought-provoking, archeological, anthropological, scientific, in-depth collection of fact, theory and research.

Reviewed by Annetta Schott

Workshop, Spring Symposium are coming up soon

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New Worlds in the Chesapeake, but also at the way that archeology, linguistics, history and more creative disciplines have joined forces to present the story of this encounter.

Two of the featured speakers are Blair Rudes, associate professor of applied linguistics at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, who helped reconstruct the Algonquin language spoken by actors in the movie *The New World*, and Mary Hope Billings of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, one of the actors who spoke that language. She will talk on "Walking on the Land of My Ancestors."

Other speakers include Wayne Clark of the MHT on "John Smith's Chesapeake Voyages, 1607-1609" and Sara Cofield from the MAC Lab, on "The Posey Collection: An Accessible Resource for Studying a Contact Period American Indian Village in Maryland."

Also appearing will be part of the team from the Sultana Shipyard in Chestertown which built the shallop — now on display in the State House in Annapolis — that will be used in reenacting John Smith's voyage up the bay.

Pa. considers legalizing ... atlatl hunting

By Dave Budinger

Condensed from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, February 09, 2006

You can be forgiven if you don't know what an atlatl is. After all, they haven't been in heavy use around here for about 8,000 years. Nevertheless, if the Pennsylvania Game Commission cooperates, atlatls could be a solution to the suburban deer issue that plagues so many North communities.

An atlatl (pronounced AT-lad-ul) was a breakthrough Stone Age invention — right up there with fire and the wheel. Using the principles of leverage, hunters whipped the atlatl in an overhand throw that, some researchers say, launched the spear at speeds up to 80 mph and distances of 100 yards.

Researchers believe the atlatl came into being about 20,000 years ago, spread through Europe, started showing up in North America about 12,000 years ago and was in use in Pennsylvania about 8,000 years ago.

In another huge leap of technology, they were replaced with bows and arrows, which were more efficient and a heck of a lot easier to carry than a bundle of 8-foot spears. The name atlatl came from the Aztecs and means either "throwing board" or "water thrower," depending on whose research you're reading.

You would expect a few archeologists and anthropologists would play around with an atlatl just to get a handle on how things worked back in the day. But who knew the atlatl would inspire a cult following of modern atlatl enthusiasts -- I'll call them atlatlists -- that appears to be taking hold?

There's even a World Atlatl Association, whose Web site identifies atlatl throwers in 34 states and a handful of countries. The Web site lists fewer than 20 atlatlists in Pennsylvania, but they apparently have tremendous lobbying clout. Last month, the state Game Commission gave preliminary approval to atlatl hunting in the commonwealth and will take a final vote in April. Atlatlists could be stalking deer by fall.

It's rather incredible that such a small interest group -- a mere fraction of the million or so licensed hunters in Pennsylvania -- can move a state agency not exactly known for alacrity into such groundbreaking action. Pennsylvania could become only the second state in the country to allow spear hunters into its woods. Alabama saw the light some years ago.

Communities where nature clashes with civilization have been wrestling for decades on ways to control the deer that seem to be moving into suburbia as fast as the population. With some exceptions, these communities don't particularly like the idea of people with guns wandering around their parks and green spaces. Even bowhunters aren't universally welcomed. Enter the atlatlist.

(Another Pennsylvania paper, the Evening Sun, reported that the Humane Society of the United States says the atlatl should be banned because its use would cause wounds that aren't fatal.)

Tribe wants possession of ancient bones

By Anna King

Condensed from the Tri-City (Washington) Herald, January 23, 2006

The scientists who fought to study Kennewick Man's bones have turned their attention to another ancient skeleton that Native Americans claim as an ancestor.

Spirit Cave Man's nearly 10,000-year-old bones were found about 70 miles east of Reno, Nev., in 1940 and are about 1,000 years older than Kennewick Man. Like Kennewick Man, it's one of the oldest and most complete skeletons ever found in the U.S.

Spirit Cave Man is being claimed by tribes under the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, which requires museums or other agencies to return remains found to have cultural affiliation with an existing tribe.

"He's our grandfather," said Rochanne Downs, coordinator for the Great Basin Inter-tribal NAGPRA Coalition and a member of the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe claiming the bones.

"A burial today is just as sacred as one 10,000 years ago," she said. "We are not just pursuing him because he is old; the remains of our ancestors are all important."

Friends of America's Past, a Portland-based nonprofit organization, recently filed an amicus brief -- or friend of the court brief -- in the Spirit Cave Man case. The group contends the U.S. District Court of Nevada isn't following the precedent set by the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. That court ruled tribes had no right to stop study of Kennewick Man because it was not related to any existing tribes.

"You really have to prove that ancient remains are Native American before you claim them under NAGPRA," said Cleone Hawkinson, president of Friends of America's Past.

Hawkinson also said Spirit Cave Man has a different bone structure and was found with dissimilar artifacts from the tribe claiming him. Spirit Cave man also is hundreds of generations removed from any current tribes of Nevada.

"If they didn't have enough evidence to link Kennewick Man, then it's got to be harder to link Spirit Cave Man," Hawkinson said.

The Nevada court is expected to rule in the case sometime this year.

Spirit Cave Man was found buried in a cave under a woven mat. His skeleton is complete, Hawkinson said. The remains include hair and pieces of skin. Studies have found the bones were from a 45- to 55-year-old man and the skeleton is about 9,415 years old.

Tribal members don't think studies can prove or disprove who their ancestors are. The tribe of more than 1,000 people believes they have been on the land forever, Downs said.

"I don't need anyone to tell me where I came from," Downs said. "Did you see Noah sail for 40 days and 40 nights with all the animals? People believe out of truth. We have respect for everyone else's religion. We just ask the same respect for ours."

Hawkinson said Spirit Cave Man should be kept in a museum so that as scientists develop more sophisticated study techniques, they can learn more about America's oldest residents.

Spirit Cave Man is stored at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City, Nev.

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

The chapter meets bimonthly. For information on this chapter, contact AACHapASM@hotmail.com

Central

Central Chapter has no formal meetings planned. But if someone has a site they want investigated, contact the Maryland Historical Trust or Central Chapter President Stephen Israel at 410-945-5514 or ssisrael@abs.net

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion. Dinner at a local restaurant is at 6. Monthly lab nights are the first Thursday of the month, from 7 to 9 at Needwood Mansion. Contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org, or call 301-840-5848. Chapter website: www.mid-potomacarchaeology.org

Mid Shore

The Mid Shore Group meets at 7:30 on the fourth Friday of the month at the SunTrust Bank on Goldsboro Street in Easton, from January through September. Contact Bill Cep at 410-822-5027 or ccep@crosslink.net

Monocacy

The chapter meets at 7 p.m. on the Wednesday closest to the 15th of each month at the Walkersville Middle School. Contact Joy Hurst at 301-663-6706 or hurst_joy@hotmail.com. Chapter website: www.digfrederick.bravehost.com

March 15: Doug Stine of the Cumberland Valley Chapter 27 of the Society for Pennsylvania Archeology will speak on the Ebbert Spring Site, a multicomponent site near Greencastle, Pa.

April 12: Robert Wall of Towson University will speak on the Barton Site. This meeting will be held in the Community Room of the public library, 110 E. Patrick Street, Frederick, at 7 p.m.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month. Contact Dan Coates at dancoates@comcast.net

April 8: The Paul Cresthull Memorial Lecture. Harford Community College.

Southern

Contact Kate Dinnel for information at katesilas@chesapeake.net or 410-586-8538.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Ida, near the court house in Ellicott City. Contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or roseannlee@earthlink.com

March 13: Cherry Koontz on "Two Weeks Around the Horn."

April 10: Charlie and Helen Koontz on "Egypt: Pyramids, Temples and Sculptures."

May 8: Jim Gibb on "Stalking Early Colonial Tidewater Sites."

Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the LaVale Library, unless noted. Contact Ed Hanna, 301-777-1380. Chapter email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: www.geocities.com/wmdasm

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

ASM. Inc 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.

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President

Carol A. Ebright
caebright@aol.com

Vice President

Elizabeth Ragan
410-548-4502
earagan@salisbury.edu

Secretary

Kathy Steuer
301-926-9584
herbalkat5@hotmail.com

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Sean Sweeney
410-569-8715
sweeneys@bcpl.net

Membership Secretary

Belinda Urquiza
PO Box 1331
Huntingtown, MD
20639
410-535-2586
burquiza@comcast.net

At-Large Trustees

Claude Bowen
301-953-1947
clauder.bowen@thomson.com

John Fiveash
443-618-0494
jsfiveash@comcast.net

Jim Gibb
410-263-1102
JamesGGibb@comcast.net

John Newton
410-558-0011
jnewton@mtamaryland.com

Annetta Schott
410-877-7000
annettaschott@comcast.net

Jim Sorensen
301-434-8316
james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org

**Archeological Society of Maryland
ASM Ink
P.O. Box 1331
Huntingtown, MD 21639-1331**

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