



ASM Ink

July 2002, Vol. 28, No. 7

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

Field School Report – The Winslow Site

By Joe Dent

Back in March a small contingent of the ASM leadership along with myself and archeologists from the Maryland Historical Trust and another local archeological agency came together one morning at Poole's General Store in Montgomery County to assess the Winslow site as a possible location for the ASM's 2002 Field Session.

Our start was auspicious. It was both wet and muddy out in the field, we lost part of our contingent between Poole's store and our destination and we never did manage to find the site. But I think we still all sensed a unique opportunity as we stood there in the cornfield along the Potomac River, and we departed encouraged by the reactions of the Department of Natural Resources folk who appeared very supportive of our plan. The site had to be somewhere nearby.

A couple of days later I showed up at the MHT and with Charlie Hall and Dennis Curry went through about five boxes of notes, manuscripts, photographs and other paraphernalia that were available there on the early excavations at the Winslow site. The site had been excavated by the Southwest Chapter of the ASM between 1959 and 1960 and also once before by society members Richard Slattery and Hugh Stabler.

Among the records we found a large aerial photograph that captured the 1959-60 ASM excavations. Maureen Kavanagh of the MHT

scanned it into GPS, did an overlay onto modern aerial photographs, and casually said look about 200 feet below the far tree line along the western margin of the field.

Armed with her advice, I returned to the field to look for a bifurcated elm tree that may or may not still be standing along the bank of the C&O canal and the associated 40 plus year old datum pipe that was pictured in the report in front of that tree.

I also suspected that the excavations of a stone drinking well associated with an early 19th century farmstead that had once stood on the site might still be visible. Wells are notoriously difficult to back-fill completely after excavation. Sure enough, after walking further down the field I saw a distinct depression on the edge of the tree line (the well), and then turned back in the wood and discovered the rotting stump of the once stately elm tree.

Recovering from my amazement, I looked down and realized that I was standing over the old metal pipe that still was in front of that stump. The original datum had been found, and I celebrated by falling into a nearby woodchuck hole. But I was on the site, and we could even tie into the original ASM grid system. Just for fun I pulled a measuring tape from the tree line and saw that Maureen was off in her

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ALSO INSIDE: ELECTIONS RUNDOWN AND BALLOT

directions by less than a foot. Sometimes non-primitive technology is good.

A research design crystallized in discussions between myself, Charlie Hall, and Dennis Curry. Dennis almost instantly produced a field manual. Katherine Clermont from American University signed on to run the field lab and process the remaining artifacts once the ASM field session ended.

And on May 16 the Winslow field lost its quiet isolation as the site setup began. The following day ASM appeared on the site in force and the first units were opened.

The ASM membership worked very hard for the next 10 days. It was gratifying to see old friends and meet a good number of new folks who decided to take the archeological plunge. Charlie Hall put together a wonderful lunch-time talk series to educate us on the larger context of what we were excavating.

All in all, I'm told, 109 volunteers opened and investigated 17 2x2 meter units. It was our great honor to have both Richard Slattery and Hugh Stabler visit the site again after 40 years. To hear them talk about their early experiences there was priceless. If that feeling could be surpassed, it was only by the dedication and perseverance of the ASM that I witnessed each day.



Above: Lenore Holt personned the Registration Desk to welcome participants to the field school, and also took care of sales. Jennifer Johnson and George Evans share a screening moment. Below: Roy Brown returns from hunting and gathering wild spears after the atlatl throwers tested their skill. Joe Dent backs himself into a corner, but escape is only 30 centimeters away.



The ASM field session ended in the rain and mud on Memorial Day, but by then there were more than a few tantalizing clues that we might be on to something big. My intrepid if somewhat twisted field school from American University continued until the middle of June and at the very end of that campaign a number of interesting discoveries made themselves known.

For one, the central units at the site yielded the pattern of a round structure some 12 feet in diameter. This is the only structure known for the Middle Potomac Valley and one of the very few that has been excavated in all of Maryland. We also found direct evidence of a palisade around the site. Archeologists had long suspected that one existed at Winslow, but the hard evidence is now at hand. Both discoveries are enormous and are the direct result of the ASM presence at the site.

To be continued next month.

ELECTION TIME

This being an even-numbered year means it is election time again, not only for state and congressional offices, but also for ASM. Below are biographies of this year's slate of candidates. Write-in votes also are permitted for all offices.

Outgoing President Nancy Geasey says, "Many thanks to our retiring Board members: Toni Ahrens who served as chairman of the Marketing Committee for the publication of *Feast of the Dead*, *A Layperson's Guide*, and *The Montgomery Focus*; Varna Boyd who served as Vice President and organized the program for the past two spring symposia; and Paul Inashima who is putting ASM's publications onto CDs."

The official ballot is included in this newsletter. It should be mailed to Nancy Geasey (see ballot) or brought to the Fall Meeting, October 19, in Ellicott City, where the votes will be tabulated and the winners announced.

President, Carol Ebright

Carol is an archeologist with the Maryland State Highway Administration. She is a life member of ASM and has served ASM as newsletter editor and vice president, arranging such outstanding spring symposia as "Early Humans in the Americas" and "Who's Talking and Who's Listening? Interpreting Maryland's Past from Native American and Archeological Viewpoints". She is an at-large member of the Council for Maryland Archeology and serves as chair of CfMA's "Native American Liaison Committee". She is also treasurer of the Middle Atlantic Archeology Conference.

Vice President, Dr. Elizabeth A. Ragan

Dr. Elizabeth Ragan is about to become an assistant professor at Salisbury University. A graduate of Wicomico High School, she has a BA in anthropology from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a Master of Philosophy degree in Celtic Archaeology from the University of Glasgow, Scotland. She carried out research into maritime trade and coastal archaeology on the West Highland coast for her PhD in anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. Having returned to the Eastern Shore, she is interested in applying these maritime perspectives to archeology on Delmvara.

Membership Secretary, Phyllis Sachs

Phyllis is completing her first term as membership secretary. She is active in the Pre-Columbian Society and in preservation groups in Baltimore. She and her husband, Joe, spend several weeks each year in Mexico.

Secretary, Alison Pooley

Alison has served as secretary of ASM since 1996. She is the memory of the Society as well as the Archivist, and is working to make Archive material more available to members and the public. She is active in the Upper Patuxent Chapter.

Treasurer, Sean Sweeney

Sean has served ASM since taking over in 1998 just a few weeks after joining the Society. He is completing his requirements for the CPA exam and is just beginning a new phase of his career as a contractual accountant. He is active with the Northern Chesapeake Chapter and participated in the UPAG dig at Jamestown as well as several field sessions.

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At-Large Board- of-Trustees

Louise Akerson

Louise is a former President of ASM, the Council for Maryland Archeology, and the Middle Atlantic Archeology Conference. Louise handles the grant funds for the Society. She represented ASM on the Governor's Task Force on the Preservation and Enhancement of Maryland's Heritage Resources. She is interested in getting more public involvement in archeology and was involved in starting the Maryland Archeology Month program and the poster contest for school children.

Susan Buonocore

Susan is finishing her first term on the Board. She chaired the ASM Teacher of the Year program for 2001 and 2002 and helped organize the 2002 ESAF Conference in Solomons, Maryland. Currently, she is coordinating the effort to standardize the boxing of artifacts from the Chapel Point site to be housed at the MAC Lab. She is an independent historical researcher and a part-time probate researcher for an international genealogical research firm in Calgary, Canada. Susan has a Master's in Historical Studies from the Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore, and has been a member of ASM since 1987.

John Newton

John is an environmental planner with the Maryland Transit Administration, where he is responsible for compliance with federal and state cultural resource protection laws. He has been very active with the recent field sessions and contributed greatly to this year's program at the Winslow site.

Dr. John Seidel

Dr. Seidel is Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Environmental Studies at Washington College, Chestertown. He also served on the Governor's Task Force on the Preservation and Enhancement of Maryland's Heritage Resources and is a Trustee of the Maryland Historical Trust. He was principal investigator with Bruce Thompson at the Steward Shipyard field session in 1993.

Dr. James Sorensen

Dr. Sorensen is head of the Office of History and Archaeology of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks, Montgomery County. This group sponsors several local programs for school children and others to introduce them to the history of the area. He and his assistant, Heather Bouslog, handle the arrangements for ASM's student poster contest.

Paul Thibault

Paul has been an active member of the Board during this term spearheading the effort to get the ASM monthly newsletter on our web page. He is interested in the early trading post at the mouth of the Monocacy River and has researched the history of that area extensively. He currently is researching native copper sources in the mid-Atlantic.

Call for Papers

UPAG is busy planning for the Fall Meeting, to be held in Ellicott City Saturday, October 19. There still are a few spots open for people wanting to give presentations. If you have something you think will be of interest, get in touch with UPAG President Lee Preston at 410-442-5520 or at lpreston@mail.howard.k12.md.us

"The presentation must address the meeting's theme, 'Preserving Many Histories: Growing Challenges and Creative Solutions,' " Preston says. Equipment available includes slide projector, data projector, VCR, laser pointer and screen.

Spring Events Update

This spring has been especially busy and productive for ASM. We were able to overcome a late start in planning for Maryland Archeology Month and the Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archeology. We held the annual poster contest, the archeology workshop with MHT, and the annual spring symposium as well.

These events would not be possible without the assistance of many ASM members. I would especially like to thank the members of the Anne Arundel Chapter and the Northern Chesapeake Chapter for successfully supporting the workshop and symposium by handling registration, refreshments and the meeting room facilities.

Thanks to John Fiveash, Marilyn Thompson, Lenore Holt, Dan Coates, Roy Brown, Jim Sorensen, Dr. Charles Hall, and Dr. Joe Dent for their contributions to a successful field session. This is a terrific group and they work together well to get the job done whether it is setting up the site, getting reduced rates at

Rockwood Manor, providing information and assistance at the site, or cleaning the muddy tents after the event. If you have not participated, it is hard to realize how much effort is put into organizing a field session and this time we did it with only a couple of months of planning time.

The efforts of Varna Boyd in preparing the program for the spring symposium and Heather Bouslog for handling the poster contest are greatly appreciated.

I am sure that others have made significant contributions during this busy time period and I very much appreciate their help as well. It is hard to remember everyone. However, if you have not previously helped with these events, please volunteer to help in the future. You will be working with a great group of people and the more participants helping with a particular task, the easier it is on everyone. Thanks so much for your support of ASM in all of its activities.

Nancy Geasey, President

Volunteer opportunities

The following Volunteer opportunities are open to both CAT program participants and other members:

Jefferson-Patterson:

Through July 6, Tues-Sat 10-3

Tuesdays/Fridays are lab work days

To sign up, call Kirsti Uunila 410-586-8555/ uunila@dhcd.state.md.us

Central Chapter is returning to the Morris Meadows Rockshelter in July and August on weekends. Last summer, prehistoric ceramics, lithic bifaces and flakes were recovered from excavation levels 2 and 3. Further field investigation is being planned to explore the Late Woodland and possibly earlier prehistoric occupations at the rockshelter. The field work will take place in Freeland, Maryland, west of I-83. Call Stephen Israel at (410) 945-5514 evening, (410) 962-0685 day, or by email; ssisrael@abs.net, for information.

The ASNC continues its active program. Check Chapter News for its current activities.

Chapter News

Many chapters are now working on their speakers' list for next year. If you have a talk you think will be of interest, contact the chapter presidents.

Anne Arundel

The next meeting will be September 18 with Charles Hall of the Trust presenting "Prehistoric Sites of the Piedmont. The October 16 meeting will be the last one scheduled until a new president is found.

Archeological Society of the Northern Chesapeake

The chapter meets at Harford Glen, near Bel Air and, after a busy year, has recessed until September.

Week-long digs are planned for July at Susquehanna State Park in support of the Junior Ranger Program, and at the Lightkeeper's House in Havre de Grace, supporting the Friends of the Concord Point Lighthouse. The chapter is also working with West Nottingham Academy in Cecil County, to set up an archeological education program at that campus. Summer field-work continues at Garrett Island with phase II level investigations on 17, 27 and 28 July; and 17, 18 and 21 August. ASM publication sales - which is handled by the chapter - for the first half of 2002, has eclipsed the total sales volume for 2001.

Central Chapter

Central Chapter's officers: Stephen Israel, Bill Lynch, and Eleanor Wilcox concurred that low attendance at monthly meetings is reason enough to postpone scheduling Chapter meetings until new people are brought into the chapter. In the mean time, reconnaissance efforts continue to locate and record archeological sites and rockshelters.

There is no new development in locating "the Old Anderson Farm" in southwestern Carroll County, where a large rockshelter is reported.

Stephen Israel is writing one of two rockshelter reports. Chuck Fuller and Kristin Ward have volunteered to assist with the Big Piney Run Rockshelter Report graphics.

Upper Patuxent Archeological Group

After the traditional end-of-the-season pot luck and gabfest, UPAG went into meeting hibernation until September. Chapter leaders are working on next year's speaker's schedule.

Western Maryland

The annual Towson University Field Session was held at the Barton Village Site (18AG3), June 1-9, 2002. Chapter members joined university anthropology students to share the learning process. Attendance at the dig averaged nearly 20 digging and screening each day, in addition to the regular flow of visitors from the community.

The Barton site has a reputation for being an archeologically rich area. This year produced an inordinate array of artifacts, features and finds that supported some speculation and resulted in at least an equal number of new questions. Drills, elk beamers, deer scrapers, bear legs, unusually long bone beads, a bone flute/whistle; even a decorated bone spoon. Water screening produced numerous

glass and bone beads. Features included classic bell-shaped storage pits, multiple hearths, and storage areas running together across the site. Dr. Wall provided guidance, encouragement and lots of hands-on training to students and Chapter members. Adding a little levity to these otherwise academic proceedings was the annual on-site birthday party for the 'site security'... Dr. Wall's two canine constant-companions! It was an all around memorable event!

This year marks a major change in the leadership of the Chapter as long-time officers Roy Brown and Gary Grant turned in their gavels. New officers are: Ed Hanna-President, Bob Bantz-Vice President and Charlene Pietra-Secretary/Treasurer. We hope to continue in the fine tradition of our out-going leadership.

2002-2003 Program Calendar:

September 27 - Introduction to the State Archeologist/Winslow Site Overview- Dr. Charles Hall- State Terrestrial Archeologist

October 25 - Cactus Hill Site - Mike Johnson - Archeologist, Fairfax Co. Virginia

November 22 - American Indian Month - Dr. Dixie Henry- MD Commission on Indian Affairs

December - Christmas Break

January 24- TBA

February 28- TBA

March 28 - Cresaptown Site - Dana Kollmann - Forensic Anthropologist

April 25 - Maryland Archeology Month - Dr. Richard J. Dent - American University

May 23 - Barton Site Update and Field Session Briefing- Dr. Robert Wall-Towson University

Programs are at 7:30 PM, the fourth Friday of the month at the LaVale Public Library unless otherwise advised. For more information, contact Ed Hanna- 301-777-1380

Chapter Email- wmdasm@yahoo.com Chapter Web site - www.geocities.com/wmdasm

Thanks, Lois

Lois Nutwell is retiring as ASM newsletter editor. Lois has served in this position since July 2000 taking over from Curt Breckenridge who vacated the post unexpectedly due to a death in his family. We are especially pleased that Lois was able to get the newsletter back on track and has worked diligently for the past two years on behalf of ASM. It was during this time that we were able to get the newsletter on our web page and have the announcements of upcoming events available in a timely fashion for those who are able to access them via the internet.

We wish Lois well as she pursues an interest in documenting the local history of her area and thank her so much for her contributions, which include the smooth transition to our new editor, Myron Beckenstein. Thanks for a job well done.

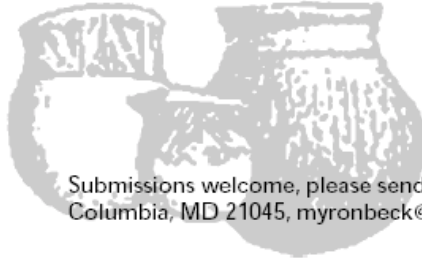
Nancy Geasey



NEXT MONTH: PETROGLYPHS

*The Archeological Society of Maryland Inc. is a statewide non-profit organization
devoted to the study and conservation of Maryland archeology.*

ASM, Inc. members receive the monthly newsletter ASM, INC, the biannual MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM, Inc., events and a 10% discount on items sold by the Society. Standard active annual membership rates are \$20.00 for individuals and \$30.00 for families. Please contact Dan Coates for publication sales at ASM, Northern Chesapeake Chapter, P.O. Box 553, Fallston, MD 21047-0553 or (410) 273-9619, e-mail: dcoates716@aol.com. For additional information, and membership categories, please contact Phyllis Sachs at P.O. Box 65001, Baltimore, MD 21209, (410) 664-9060, e-mail psachs4921@aol.com.



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