ASM Ink

July, 2010 Vol. 36, No. 7

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Participants at the 2010 field session had a choice of working outside or inside. (Photos, JefPat)

Field session helps fill in some blanks

By Ed Chaney

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum

This year's ASM field session was held at the Smith's St. Leonard site at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum. The goal was to better identify some of the buildings known to have once stood on this early 18th Century site. We focused our efforts on a structure that was labeled as a kitchen on a 1773 map of the property and on a building that does not appear on the map and is thus called the "unknown building."

Some 50 volunteers participated and we were able to get a lot of dirt moved, despite weather that ranged from August-like heat and humidity to March-like cold and wet. We opened up 14 test units, screening the plowzone from each. Because of the large quantity of cultural material in this portion of the site (yes, I'm talking shell and brick!), it takes a while to excavate the units, so having ASM out there to help us certainly speeded up the investigation. And thanks to the field session we now have a better idea of the appearance of the buildings being tested. **Continued on Page 10**

Inside: ASM ballot, candidate profiles

It's election time. A list of candidates, with space for write-ins, is included in this newsletter

Upcoming events

August 26 – 29: Annual meeting of the World Atlatl Association and U.S.A. national atlatl championships. Letchworth State Park, Castile, New York. Contact Dana and Kay Klein, 585 – 365 – 8048. For information on the group, see http://www.worldatlatl.org

September 11: ASM board meeting.

September 25: The Pre-Columbian Society of Washington's 17th annual symposium, at the U.S. Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center. The symposium title is "Under Cover of Darkness: The Meaning of Night in Ancient Mesoamerica." For information see http://www.pcswdc.org

October 16: Fall meeting. Oregon Ridge Nature Center, Cockeysville.

October 28 – 31: ESAF meeting, Williamsburg, Va.

Volunteer opportunities

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

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

For updates and information on other CAT activities check the ASM website.

Nominations open for ASM's Marye Award

Each year ASM honors someone for outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology with its William B. Marye Award. A nomination form is included in this newsletter. Do you know of someone who deserves the tribute? The person need not be a member of ASM or even someone living in Maryland. The key is someone who has made a significant impact on archeology in the state.

If you know of someone, fill out the nomination form and send it to Tyler Bastian, the award committee chairman. The deadline is September 15, but don't put it off. Nominations are not carried over from year to year so if you have nominated someone in the past who has not won, try again.

Winners of the award over the last five years are Robert Bantz, Jim Gibb, Carol Ebright, Richard Hughes and Dan Coates. A complete list of winners is on the nomination form.

This year's winner will be announced at the Society's Annual Meeting on October 16 at Oregon Ridge in Baltimore County.

Pig Point gets older and even older

By Frank D. Roylance

Condensed from The Baltimore Sun, June 13, 2010

When they first detected traces of an 800-year-old wigwam on a bluff over the Patuxent River last year, archeologists celebrated what they said was the oldest human structure yet found in Maryland.

Now, deeper excavation at the site — the front lawn of a modest rental house — is yielding details of much earlier settlement, extending its history back to at least 3,000 years ago.

"As far as I know, it's older than anything in Maryland, Virginia and Delaware, perhaps the oldest structures in the Chesapeake region," said Anne Arundel County archeologist Al Luckenbach, leader of the dig.

And that's just the age that's been established by carbon-14 dating. Slicing deeper in the sandy bluff overlooking the Patuxent's broad marsh, Luckenbach's crew has found stone tools suggesting that humans were exploiting the river's abundance as far back as 10,000 years ago.

Called Pig Point, the site is producing a gusher of ancient artifacts — decorated pottery, tools crafted from stone and bone, ornaments and food waste that have begun to fill in the details of life along the Patuxent River centuries before Europeans arrived.

"Some of the ceramics that have come out of this site are really just astounding," said Maureen Kavanagh, chief archeologist at the Maryland Historical Trust and a specialist in ceramics.

There have been pot fragments with incised angular decorations or rims crimped like a pie crust — different from any ever found in Maryland. Diggers found an intact paint pot the size of a child's fist and a miniature, decorated pot the size of a thimble.

"These really have us scrambling to figure out what they represent," Kavanagh said. "Some of these artifacts are one of a kind, and we don't have an easy way of fitting them into our mental template. … It's a great, great site."

Archeologists say some of their discoveries are so exotic in this region that they suggest Pig Point was a center of trade among native people as far-flung as Ohio, Michigan and New York.

Trash middens unearthed in the dig are yielding the remains of freshwater mussels, oysters, fish, beaver, muskrat, otter, deer, duck, nuts and more. Archeologists have also found carbonized corn kernels, evidence of agriculture.

"It's one of the biggest marshes on the East Coast. You couldn't have starved here if you tried," Luckenbach said.

Luckenbach, trained in prehistoric archeology but best known for leading excavations of Anne Arundel County's Colonial-era "Lost Towns," said Pig Point has changed the arc of his long career as the county's chief archeologist.

"I've been waiting 20 years for the right Indian site," he said. "And here we are at Pig Point."

Work at the site began in April 2009, after the owner, William Brown, contacted the county archeology office about the artifacts he'd been finding.

"This has made me very happy," Brown said of the dig, which he has joined as a volunteer. "It's my opportunity to learn about the people who lived here before us."

Funded this year by Anne Arundel County and a $32,000 grant from the Maryland Historical Trust, the work at Pig Point has astonished Chesapeake archeologists, who rave about the fine preservation of artifacts and deep layering of the soil.

"Archeologists just live for these nice, layer-cake sites where the oldest [artifacts] are the most deeply buried, until you get to the modern stuff on top," said Richard J. Dent, professor of anthropology at American University in Washington.

Chesapeake archeologists more typically encounter artifacts in shallow soil profiles, disturbed at the surface by plows. Some trenches at Pig Point have gone seven feet down without running out of artifacts.

At Pig Point, Luckenbach suspects it was wind-blown soil and erosion from higher on the bluff that continually buried older layers over thousands of years. **Continued on next page**

The project made news last year when his team of a dozen or so professionals and volunteers revealed an oval pattern of "post molds" — dark, round patches in the soil where wooden posts had once been driven into the dirt, then rotted away.

The oval pattern — 16 feet by 12 feet — was all that remained of an Indian wigwam, made from saplings inserted in the soil and bent together to form a house frame. The frame would have been covered by poplar bark or woven mats. William Brown has built a replica on the property that is sturdy enough for an adult to climb.

Carbon-14 dating pegged the post molds to the 12th Century A.D. But "as we continued to dig down," Luckenbach said, "we found more wigwams with good carbon-14 dates." One by one they appeared, each one a bit deeper than the previous one, some of them overlapping. The dates came back at A.D. 520, and A.D. 210.

"Below that, the charcoal did not survive to get carbon-14 dates," Luckenbach said. But even as his crew dug deeper into the soil — and further back in time — "the wigwams did not stop."

The ovals kept turning up, even beyond a layer where pottery disappears — a time about 3,000 years ago, before ceramic technology came to the area. Luckenbach believes those are the oldest in the Chesapeake region.

Dent agrees. He said there have been reports of traces of structures as old as 11,000 years in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, "but a lot of people don't accept them," he said, because they didn't see them.

"The great thing about Al is that he has been very open about inviting [archeologists] to the site and letting them excavate. The fact that so many people have seen those things makes them better accepted," said Dent. He, too, was drawn to the site by reports of Luckenbach's extraordinary finds.

The finds demonstrate that Pig Point people were in contact with other trade centers at some distance, and their town was itself a semi-permanent base camp and trade center, like others found along rivers in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

"We tend to think of these people in the past were relatively isolated little groups," Dent said. "They didn't have a global economy, but they had an economy that looked beyond the doorsteps of their house."

Hot and cold case: The first corn

By Sean B. Carroll

Condensed from the New York Times, May 24, 2010

Corn is much more than great summer picnic food. Civilization owes much to this plant and to the early people who first cultivated it.

For most of human history, our ancestors relied entirely on hunting animals and gathering seeds, fruits, nuts, tubers and other plant parts from the wild for food. It was only about 10,000 years ago that humans in many parts of the world began raising livestock and growing food through deliberate planting. These advances provided more reliable sources of food and allowed for larger, more permanent settlements.

Native Americans domesticated nine of the most important food crops in the world, including corn (more properly called maize), which now provides about 21 percent of human nutrition across the globe.

But despite its abundance and importance, the biological origin of maize has been a long-running mystery. The bright yellow, mouth-watering treat we know so well does not grow in the wild anywhere on the planet, so its ancestry was not at all obvious.

Recently, however, the combined detective work of botanists, geneticists and archeologists has been able to identify the wild ancestor of maize, to pinpoint where the plant originated and to determine when early people were cultivating it and using it in their diets.

The greatest surprise, and the source of much past controversy in corn archeology, was the identification of the ancestor of maize. Many botanists did not see any connection between maize and other living plants. Some concluded that the crop plant arose through the domestication by early agriculturalists of a wild

maize that was now extinct, or at least undiscovered.

However, a few scientists working during the first part of the 20th Century uncovered evidence that they believed linked maize to what, at first glance, would seem to be a very unlikely parent, a Mexican grass called teosinte.

Looking at the skinny ears of teosinte, with just a dozen kernels wrapped inside a stone-hard casing, it is hard to see how they could be the forerunners of corn cobs with their many rows of juicy, naked kernels. Indeed, teosinte was at first classified as a closer relative of rice than of maize.

But George W. Beadle, while a graduate student at Cornell University in the early 1930s, found that maize and teosinte had very similar chromosomes. Moreover, he made fertile hybrids between maize and teosinte that looked like intermediates between the two plants. He even reported that he could get teosinte kernels to pop.

Beadle went on to make other, more fundamental discoveries in genetics for which he shared the Nobel Prize in 1958. He later became chancellor and president of the University of Chicago.

Despite Beadle's illustrious reputation, his theory still remained in doubt three decades after he proposed it. So, after he formally retired, Beadle returned to the issue and sought ways to gather more evidence.

As a great geneticist, he knew that one way to examine the parentage of two individuals was to cross them and then to cross their offspring and see how often the parental forms appeared. He crossed maize and teosinte, then crossed the hybrids, and grew 50,000 plants. He obtained plants that resembled teosinte and maize at a frequency that indicated that just four or five genes controlled the major differences between the two plants.

Beadle's results showed that maize and teosinte were without any doubt remarkably and closely related. But to pinpoint the geographic origins of maize, more definitive forensic techniques were needed. This was DNA typing, exactly the same technology used by the courts to determine paternity.

In order to trace maize's paternity, botanists led by John Doebley of the University of Wisconsin rounded up more than 60 samples of teosinte from across its entire geographic range in the Western Hemisphere and compared their DNA profile with all varieties of maize.

They discovered that all maize was genetically most similar to a teosinte type from the Central Balsas River Valley of southern Mexico. Furthermore, by calculating the genetic distance between modern maize and Balsas teosinte, they estimated that domestication occurred about 9,000 years ago.

These genetic discoveries inspired recent archeological excavations of the Balsas region that sought evidence of maize use and to better understand the lifestyles of the people who were planting and harvesting it. Researchers led by Anthony Ranere of Temple University and Dolores Piperno of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History excavated caves and rock shelters in the region, searching for tools used by their inhabitants, maize starch grains and other microscopic evidence of maize.

In the Xihuatoxtla shelter, they discovered an array of stone milling tools with maize residue on them. The oldest tools were found in a layer of deposits that were 8,700 years old. This is the earliest physical evidence of maize use obtained to date, and it coincides very nicely with the time frame of maize domestication estimated from DNA analysis.

The most impressive aspect of the maize story is what it tells us about the capabilities of agriculturalists 9,000 years ago. These people were living in small groups and shifting their settlements seasonally. Yet they were able to transform a grass with many inconvenient, unwanted features into a high-yielding, easily harvested food crop. The domestication process must have occurred in many stages over a considerable length of time as many different, independent characteristics of the plant were modified.

The most crucial step was freeing the teosinte kernels from their stony cases. Another step was developing plants where the kernels remained intact on the cobs, unlike the teosinte ears. Early cultivators had to notice among their stands of plants variants in which the nutritious kernels were at least partially exposed, or whose ears held together better or that had more rows of kernels, and they had to selectively breed them. It is estimated that the initial domestication process that produced the basic maize form required at least several hundred to perhaps a few thousand years.

Every August, I thank these pioneer geneticists for their skill and patience.

Meet the candidates for ASM office

President: Mechelle Kerns has 13 years experience in cultural resource management as an archeologist and historian. She specializes in maritime history and material culture from the 17th and 18th century Mid-Atlantic region. She has directed investigations on historic sites in Maryland, Washington DC, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia, Wisconsin and Mississippi and has worked on underwater sites in Maryland and Florida. She teaches history for the University of Maryland University College and is president of the Anne Arundel Archeological Society.

Vice president: Claude Bowen's interest in archeology goes back to his childhood when he hunted projectile points on his parents' and uncle's farms in Southern Maryland. He joined ASM in the late 1980s and was president of the Southern Chapter. He has been a member of the board of trustees for four years and has represented ASM on the MHT working group on Native American remains. He soon will be the Society's grants administrator.

Membership secretary: Belinda Urquiza has been Membership Secretary since 2004. She is active in the Anne Arundel and Charles County chapters and is both a CAT candidate and a member of the CAT committee. Her first excavation was on an Etruscan site in Italy as part of her MA program. She now divides her avocational archeological work between the Mid-Atlantic and the Southwest.

Secretary: Suzanne Bucci has been interested in archeology all her life and has volunteered on many digs all over the U.S. In 2008 she joined both ASM and the Monocacy Chapter and has attended most meetings, workshops, symposiums and field sessions since then. She is a CAT candidate and served as a member at large on the Board for the last two years.

Treasurer: Jim Gibb has been a professional archeologist for nearly 35 years and a self-employed archeological consultant since 1988. Fifteen years ago he had the good sense to marry a certified public accountant. Jim has served as ASM's grants administrator and, most recently, as vice president of ASM.

Candidates for **at-large trustee** positions (vote for not more than six):

Dan Coates: Former president of the Northern Chesapeake Chapter, Dan has been very active in ASM affairs and is a CAT graduate. Last year he won the Society's highest honor, the William B. Marye Award. In addition to his leading roles in seven field schools, he is in charge of ASM publication sales and has given presentations at several ASM and chapter meetings, most recently on soapstone.

John Fiveash: Outgoing president of ASM. John became involved with archeology in 1994 while at Fort Huachuca in Arizona. He moved to Maryland in 1996 in time to take part in the Mt. Calvert field sessions. Since 2002 he has managed the ASM website. Among his other ASM roles he has been an member of the field school committee and has been active in the field sessions.

Tom Forhan: Tom has been actively involved with ASM since 2006 as a volunteer, CAT candidate and, for the past two years, a board member. Retired now, he has become a full-time archeology graduate student at the University of Maryland, College Park. He serves as a member of the Maryland Advisory Committee on Archeology, which advises the Maryland Historical Trust.

Gary Hall: A CAT candidate, he took anthropology and archeology courses at both the University of Maryland and Montgomery College and participated in field work while getting degrees in business and finance. He has a particular interest in the Indians and settlers of the Eastern Shore, particularly Somerset County.

Valerie L. Hall: A member of the Mid-Potomac Chapter, she began her adventures in archeology at the Elkridge site in 1996. She is a CAT candidate and spends many hours volunteering with her chapter, often in outreach to the community. She is happiest when she is working outside on an excavation or site survey - a bad day in the field is always better than a good day in the office.

Annetta Schott: She went from being the first graduate of the CAT program to becoming a member of the CAT committee. She is active in the Northern Chesapeake Chapter and has served on the ASM board. She serves on the state's Native American Liaison Committee and is a CRM subcontractor working on projects around Maryland.

Jim Sorensen: Recently retired from his job with the Maryland-National Capitol Park and Planning Commission, Jim has long been active in ASM and has served as a board member.

Jaimie Wilder: A member of UPAG and ASM since 2003, she is studying archeology and anthropology at Howard Community College and plans to get her degrees in this area. She has participated in digs in Maryland, Britain and France and volunteers at Jefferson Patterson. Her work at the Bassler Farmsite via HCC has brought her honors, including being named to the USA Today All-USA Academic team.

Now in Philadelphia: The real Cleopatra

By Joann Loviglio

Condensed from the Associated Press, June 5, 2010

PHILADELPHIA -- Was Cleopatra a conniving temptress who seduced her way to the top or the target of recorded history's most effective negative political campaign?

A splashy exhibit at the Franklin Institute makes a case for the latter.

"Cleopatra: The Search for the Last Queen of Egypt," features many never-before-seen artifacts from a pair of ongoing Egyptian archeological expeditions. It remains in Philadelphia until January, when it begins a tour of five not-yet-announced American cities.

The show employs theatrical lighting and sound, 17 video screens documenting archeologists uncovering some of the 150 artifacts on display and a four-minute video providing an overview of Cleopatra's life and loves in a style that looks and sounds like a trailer for a slick action movie.

"We're using ancient objects to tell a modern-day story about the search for Cleopatra," said John Norman of Arts and Exhibitions International, the company that organized the show.

The first of the exhibit's two sections showcases the discoveries of French underwater archeologist Franck Goddio, whose 20-year expedition near Alexandria so far has uncovered Cleopatra's palace, two ancient cities and 20,000 artifacts and counting.

"These are the most important, the most beautiful of what we found," Goddio said.

The artifacts range from tiny gold coins to a pair of towering eight-ton granite figures. Visitors will see, through a glass walkway under their feet, artifacts long hidden under the harbor's sediment after earthquakes and tsunamis submerged ancient Alexandria more than 1,500 years ago.

"We have found less than 1 percent of what is there," Goddio said. "I need three or four centuries to complete the entire excavation."

In the second portion are never-before-seen finds of Zahi Hawass, secretary-general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities in Cairo. Hawass, whom visitors may recognize from his appearances on archeological documentaries, describes in a brief video his quest for the lost tomb of Cleopatra and her lover, the Roman general Mark Antony.

Hawass believes an artifact trail of sculpture, jewelry, mummies and subterranean shafts is leading his team tantalizingly close to the resting place of the ill-fated couple.

"As each new treasure is discovered, it could be the one that holds the answers to the mysteries surrounding her life," Norman said.

Annapolis archives going online

By Stacy Jones

Condensed from the University of Maryland publication Between the Columns, June 2010

Through 30 years of discoveries of centuries-old food and medicine bottles, remnants of African worship and broken dishes, the Archaeology in Annapolis program has been filling out the city's history.

In early July the reports, slides, maps and clippings from more than 40 excavation sites will all be available free in the Hornbake Library's National Trust for Historic Preservation Library in what program director Mark P. Leone says will be the first archive of its kind in terms of accessibility and depth.

"Major archeological projects don't typically offer access to descriptions of their findings like this. To have 18-20 major site reports online through the library is an information breakthrough," Leone says. "We are giving the entire record to the university libraries to ensure its survival and free access to anybody who wants to use it."

The archive will include all documents related to the excavations in Annapolis—including at the homes of two signers of the Declaration of Independence—and on the Eastern Shore in the houses and plantations of prominent political families and the childhood home of an enslaved Frederick Douglass.

Year after year, teams of archeology students have dug under empty lots, homes and even sidewalks and roads to unearth clues about the lives of free African-Americans who lived in Annapolis in the late 18th Century. In 2005, the field team made one of its most provocative discoveries: artifacts from a West African spirit tradition, in the hearth of an 18th Century mansion. They concluded that while some blacks still practiced "hoodoo," upwardly mobile blacks tended to abandon it.

The site records of these places, which range in size from just one folder to 14 boxes of material, include maps, photos, descriptions of artifacts, correspondence and press clippings generated by the program as it excavated and communicated with outside entities.

For now, the archive is in the hands of Mike Roller, a master's student in applied anthropology.

"I just thought it was a really challenging project. I wanted to understand the Annapolis project as a whole and this has been a fantastic way to get a feel for how it's been run," he says. "It's amazing how many different types of materials are produced from an archeology project apart from artifacts."

His online finder's guide will allow researchers to leaf through an index of the detailed reports and data included in the collection without having to travel to the archive. Written reports and documents will be available online, as will pictures and maps, but the artifacts themselves will remain in Annapolis, where they are maintained by the city's government.

The unpublished material of the Archaeology in Annapolis program has long garnered attention. Leone says most introductory archeology textbooks mention discoveries made by the program and doctoral students from some of the nation's top universities sign up to work in the Annapolis field school to gather material for their dissertations. About 400 undergraduate, 20 master's and 17 doctoral students have joined its excavations in the state's capital.

"Annapolis is one of the few important 18th Century cities in the United States that survives intact archeologically. There's something under everything and its being intact means that the archeology hasn't been destroyed," Leone says. He and his teams have worked with the city to ensure that projects as small as renovating a basement, building an addition to a home or replacing sections of a sidewalk have had to undergo serious consideration to make sure they wouldn't destroy artifacts of the city's rich history.

"It's a special relationship we have with the city," Leone adds.

The university and Historic Annapolis Foundation founded the program to excavate all across the capital—any century, any group, any block—and the foundation's historian, Glenn Campbell, says one of the main ideas behind Archaeology in Annapolis has been to make the archeology of this city accessible to the public.

What's new? A 5,500-year-old shoe

By Pam Belluck

Condensed from the New York Times, June 9, 2010

Think of it as a kind of prehistoric Prada: Archeologists have discovered what they say is the world's oldest known leather shoe.

Perfectly preserved under layers of sheep dung (who needs cedar closets?), the shoe, made of cowhide and tanned with oil from a plant or vegetable, is about 5,500 years old, older than Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids, scientists say. Leather laces crisscross through numerous leather eyelets and it was worn on the right foot; there is no word on the left shoe.

"These were probably quite expensive shoes, made of leather, very high quality," said one of the lead scientists, Gregory Areshian, of the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at the University of California, Los Angeles.

It was most likely worn by a woman with roughly size 7 feet.

The shoe was discovered by scientists excavating in a huge cave in Armenia, part of a treasure trove of artifacts they found that experts say provide unprecedented information about an important and sparsely documented era: the Chalcolithic period or Copper Age, when humans are believed to have invented the wheel, domesticated horses and produced other innovations.

Along with the shoe, the cave, designated Areni-1, has yielded evidence of an ancient winemaking operation and caches of what may be the oldest known intentionally dried fruits: apricots, grapes, prunes. The scientists, financed by the National Geographic Society and other institutions, also found skulls of three adolescents in ceramic vessels, suggesting ritualistic or religious practice. One skull, Areshian said, even contained desiccated brain tissue older than the shoe, about 6,000 years old.

Previously, the oldest known leather shoe belonged to Ötzi the Iceman, a mummy found 19 years ago in the Alps near the Italian-Austrian border. His shoes, about 300 years younger than the Armenian shoe, had bearskin soles, deerskin panels, tree-bark netting and grass socks. Footwear even older than the leather shoe includes examples found in Missouri and Oregon, made mostly from plant fibers.

The shoe was not tossed devil-may-care, but was, for unclear reasons, placed deliberately in the pit, which was carefully lined with yellow clay. While scientists say the shoe was stuffed with grass, acting like a shoe tree to hold its shape, it had been worn.

Many tools found were of obsidian, whose closest source was a 60-mile trek away. (Perhaps why they needed shoes, Areshian suggested.)

ASM joins the Facebook crowd

ASM is now on Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com and search for "Friends of ASM." Click "Add as Friend" to join the group. Mechelle Kerns of the Anne Arundel Chapter maintains this site. ASM events are posted throughout the year and member announcements for archeology-related events can be submitted for posting. Contact Mechelle at AAChapASM@hotmail.com with questions or to have your event posted.

Field session helps fill in some blanks

Continued from Page One

At the kitchen, we started the project with two known features: a large, H-shaped brick chimney base with two fireplaces and two structural postholes of uncertain association with the chimney. The field session revealed two additional postholes on the east side of the chimney, giving us 20 feet of a kitchen wall that was constructed on posts set 10 feet apart.

On the west side of the chimney we found another posthole and after ASM left we found a third, again spaced 10 feet away. So we can now identify the locations of the east and west walls of the kitchen, which tell us that the building was 20 feet wide. We need to excavate further to figure out the structure's length, but hopefully we will have determined that by the end of the summer.

On the last day of the session we uncovered a sub-plowzone layer or large feature filled with charcoal, ash and artifacts, north of the chimney. Subsequent work has shown that this burned layer/feature spreads across a wide portion of the north kitchen room. More testing needs to be done to figure out the origin of this deposit, but we hope it will be a cellar or sub-floor pit.

At the "unknown building" we had started with three postholes, which did not connect to one another in any obvious way. During the field session we found four more. It is now fairly certain that our "unknown building" should be changed to "buildings." One structure appears to be 10 feet wide and unfortunately may be running under our backdirt pile.

The second building is northeast of the first and probably continues toward the ravine in the poison ivy-filled woods. So the field session may have completed the easy portion of the "unknown buildings" excavation. As with the kitchen, the last day of the session revealed a charcoal- and ash-filled feature at the northern unknown building. It too needs further exploration.

In terms of the artifacts recovered, the field session got off to an unexpected start when a fragment of a prehistoric steatite pipe was found within the first hour of the first day. But things quickly got back to normal and we began finding numerous early 18th Century artifacts. Among the more notable discoveries at the kitchen were a large, highly decorated horse bridle ornament, a brass thimble and large sherds of ceramic and glass drinking vessels. At the unknown buildings, we found a limestone marble, several polychrome drawn glass beads and a large iron strap hinge.

One of the things that distinguished the 2010 ASM field session was the opportunity for participants to take advantage of the resources available at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory and the rest of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum. People who wanted to get away from the heat (or the oyster shells) could go to the Lab to attend workshops on topics such as lifting fragile objects in the field, packaging and curation, or artifact identification.

CAT trainees worked with MAC Lab staff to fulfill some requirements of their certification. And many ASM members attended the programs put together by JPPM's education staff and docents, such as visits to the recreated Indian Village or the archeology exhibits at the Visitor Center, or guided tours of various trails and sites at JPPM. We hope this year's field session attendees enjoyed the opportunity to participate in activities that were a little different from normal.

Although we still have a lot of work to do on the site, and will be out there for many more months to come, the field session definitely got us off to a great start. If you would like to come back out to the site, just give us a call.

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

Meeting five times a year in February, April, June, September and November, the chapter meets at the Severna Park Branch of the Anne Arundel County Public Library, 45 McKinsey Road. 7:30 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito at AAChapASM@hotmail.com or visit the chapter website www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php

September 10: London Town's Rod Cofield will talk on ways by which women, as patrons and laborers, participated in Colonial-era public houses.

Central

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 7:30 on the second Tuesday (September–May). Contact President Carol Cowherd at cowherdcl@gmail.com or 301-375-9489.

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Agricultural History Farm Park Activity Center in Derwood. Dinner at a local restaurant is at 6. Contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org, or call 301-840-5848 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: www.asmmidpotomac.wordpress.com and www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Contact Jeremy Lazelle at 301-845-9855 orjlazelle@msn.com or Nancy Geasey at 301-378-0212.

June 8: Justin Bedard of the URS Corporation will present "The Adoption of Native American Ceramic Technology in the Chesapeake Bay Region."

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Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month. Members and guests assemble at 6:30 p.m. for light refreshments. A business meeting at 7 is followed by the presentation at 7:30. Contact Ann Persson at 410-272-3425 or aspst20@yahoo.com Website: http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of every other month at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Ida, near the courthouse in Ellicott City. Contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or leeprestonjr@comcast.net

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

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