

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

Workshop in Archeology coming March 29

By Zachary Singer

Maryland Historical Trust

Don't look now but it's time for March to bloom and that means it's also time for ASM Spring lecture series to begin

As usual, the parade starts off with the Workshop in Archeology, organized by the Maryland Historical Trust, at the MHT headquarters in Crownsville.

Registration and refreshments begin at 9. Welcoming remarks by Elizabeth Hughes (MHT) and Valerie Hall (ASM) start the program off at 9:30.

The keynote address opens at 9:45. Travis Parno will review the nearly 100 years of efforts toward locating St. Mary's Fort. Included in his presentation will be the results of a 2018 geophysical survey of two possible fort locales and subsequent ground truthing of these areas.

After the keynote, attendees can choose among three presentations to attend during three time slots for the rest of the day.

In the first slot, Laura Masur will present on her research into the social history and archeology of Jesuit sites in Maryland, from ecclesiastical architecture to slave quarters and evidence of missionary outreach.

Rob Wanner will discuss recent archeological investigations at the Point Lookout Lighthouse in St. Mary's County. This work revealed several features dating from the Civil War period to the mid-20th Century, providing information about the lives of the lighthouse keepers as well as efforts to keep the forces of nature at work on the point in check.

Bob Wall will report on recent excavations at the Elkridge Site in Anne Arundel County. The site consists of a series of small hearth-focused camps that were used from at least the Late Archaic period through the Late Woodland period for acquiring and reducing local quartz and quartzite cobbles into usable tool forms.

After a break for lunch, Cassandra Michaud will talk about archeological research at the Josiah Henson Site, which spans 200 years of Montgomery County history and includes remnants of the 19th Century Riley plantation as well as the area's suburbanization. This presentation will also discuss the incorporation of the archeology into the public interpretation at the new Josiah Henson Museum, opening this 2020.

At 2:30, Zachary Andrews, Alex Glass and Kristen Browne will team up to discuss recent archeological investigations at the Cloverfields Plantation Site in Queen Anne's County. First, Andrews will give a chronological exploration and analysis of structural remains and features identified at the site. Next, Alex Glass will look at the botanical remains from three 18th-Century pit features at the site. And finally, Kristen Browne will analyze chronology and cultural patterning in relationship to the subfloor pits and root cellars identified at Cloverfields.

The other two afternoon presentations for each period will be two-part workshops.

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Upcoming events

March 7: ASM board meeting. Heritage House, Ellicott City. 9 a.m. All members welcome

March 28: Workshop in Archeology, Crownsville, all day.

April 18: ASM Spring Symposium, Crownsville, all day.

November 7: Annual meeting of ASM.

Volunteer opportunities

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

ASM Volunteer Lab, most Tuesdays: The lab in Crownsville. Contact Charlie Hall at charles.hall@maryland.gov or Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net. It is currently working on cataloging artifacts from the Levering Coffee House Site, Baltimore (a mostly late 18th/early 19th Century site).

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

Montgomery County for lab and field work volunteers, contact Heather Bouslag at 301 563 7530 or Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org

The Anne Arundel County Archaeology Program and the Lost Towns Project welcome volunteers in both field and lab at numerous sites. For diggers, the Linniston site on Gibson Island shows signs of occupation from the 17th through 19th centuries. Digging is on Fridays from 8 to 3. The lab will be open some weekdays at the Anne Arundel collection facility at 7409 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd. in Glen Burnie. For more information and to sign up email Drew Webster at volunteers@losttownsproject.org or call 410 222 1318.

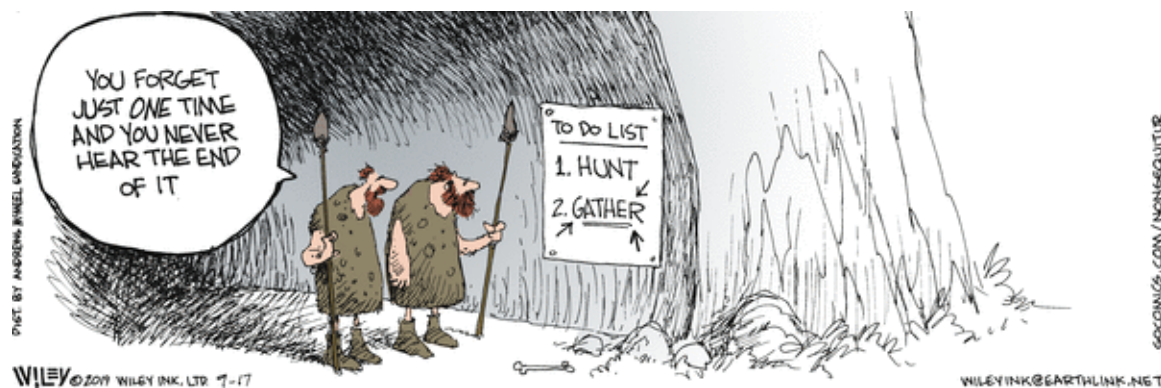
Mount Calvert. Lab work and field work. 301 627 1286.

Jefferson Patterson Park invites volunteers to take part in its activities, including archeology, historical research and conservation. Contact 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.

UPAG/Howard County Recs and Parks invites volunteers interested in processing collections and conducting historical research to contact Kelly Palich at Kpalich@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-0423.

CAT corner: For information on the CAT program, contact the new chair, Kelly Palich, at Kpalich@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-0423.



Trump's wall impacting Indian remains

By Ari Shapiro

Condensed from NPR, February 19, 2020

The Trump administration is racing to build border fences in southern Arizona to the consternation of local archeologists. They have found bone fragments nearby thought to belong to ancient Native Americans. Now some worry the construction crews will damage more remains. From member station KJZZ, Michel Marizco reports.

MICHEL MARIZCO: Construction crews building the new fence within the mostly wild Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument started blasting on the monument's border with Mexico in late January. It's a site of significance to the neighboring Native American tribe. The federal government calls it a limited detonation zone and says it's necessary to loosen the soil so contractors can sink in footers for the 30-foot-tall border fence currently going up.

The local Border Patrol chief in nearby Tucson said the detonations are only happening on a slice of the border region called the Roosevelt Reservation, a 60-foot-wide strip of federally owned property that runs along the southwestern border. The hill where the crews are blasting is called Monument Hill. It's where the Tohono O'odham Tribe would scatter the bones of raiding Apaches they killed in battle.

Rick Martynec, an archeologist who's worked in the area 30 years, says fragments of bone from those people are still found on Monument Hill. Martynec says tribal archeologists have long found human remains there. The Border Patrol said it has a monitor on site, but that they have found no evidence of cultural or historical sites.

MARTYNEC: I don't know how they could have missed them.

MARIZCO: Last November, the National Park Service found human remains near artifacts thousands of years old in a spring near where the border fence is going up, about six miles from the current blasting site. Arizona Democrat Raul Grijalva, who sits on the Natural Resources Committee, says federal officials assured the tribe the blasting wouldn't happen.

GRIJALVA: There was a direct response to the chairman saying, no, we're not going to blast anything - and then within a short period of time, it happened.

MARIZCO: Grijalva and the O'odham tribal government want to create exceptions to the Real ID Act, the federal rule that allows Homeland Security to bypass restrictions to building a border fence. Last spring, the government used that power to waive more than 30 environmental and cultural laws, including one that dictates how Native American remains are treated.

More access sought for once-protected land

By Sarah Kaplan and Juliet Eilperin

Condensed from the Washington Post, February 6, 2020

The Interior Department finalized plans Thursday to permit drilling, mining and grazing in areas of southern Utah that had once been protected as two national monuments, sparking an outcry from tribal groups and conservationists.

The decision comes more than two years after President Trump dramatically cut the size of the monuments, Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, and is likely to intensify a legal fight over the contested sites.

The expanses of wind-swept badlands, narrow slot canyons and towering rock formations are sacred to several Native American nations and prized by scientists and outdoor enthusiasts. Bears Ears contains tens of thousands of cultural artifacts and rare rock art.

But the lands also harbor significant amounts of oil, gas and coal that the administration hopes to develop, as well as grazing land valued by local ranchers. The earliest the government could approve new mining claims and other kinds of development is Oct. 1, because of language Congress adopted in a spending bill.

Officials from the Interior Department and U.S. Forest Service who manage the lands have said the new

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plans balance the region's economic interests against the need to safeguard natural and cultural wonders. Casey Hammond, the Interior Department's acting assistant secretary for land and minerals management, noted that the areas excluded from monuments are still protected by federal environmental laws.

"We are advancing our goal to restore trust and be a good neighbor," Hammond said Thursday.

Under the plan, much of Bears Ears and nearly 1 million acres in and around Grand Staircase are open to grazing. BLM will also make two new routes in Grand Staircase open to off-road vehicles, which archeologists and conservationists are concerned could damage vulnerable artifacts and natural features.

The plans don't allow for commercial logging, according to Kimberly Finch, communications director for Bureau of Land Management Utah. But trees and other vegetation can be cut as part of "treatments."

BLM has received 15 mining claims on lands excluded from the two national monuments since their boundaries were redrawn, Finch said.

The decision to overhaul what activities are permitted on large swaths of federal land in southern Utah comes as the Bureau of Land Management is eyeing much bigger changes to how it manages 245 million acres of public land across the country and the minerals buried underneath them.

The 1906 Antiquities Act empowers a president to protect public lands of archeological significance. President Bill Clinton first designated Grand Staircase-Escalante a national monument in 1996. President Barack Obama designated Bears Ears a national monument 20 years later.

President Trump's Interior Department redrew those boundaries so that Grand Staircase is half its former size and Bears Ears has shrunk by 85 percent. A coalition of groups sued, arguing that the act does not give a president the authority to revoke the national monument designations of their predecessors.

Several plaintiffs roundly criticized the administration for moving forward with management plans while the cases were still in court. But Hammond said Thursday that the Interior Department would not delay its decision to match a slow-moving legal process.

In developing the plan for Bears Ears and Grand Staircase, Hammond said, the BLM consulted with Native American tribes and considered thousands of public comments.

But representatives from Utah Dine Bikeyah, a non-profit that led tribal efforts to secure protection for Bears Ears and is a lead plaintiff on the monuments lawsuits, called BLM's outreach to tribes "insufficient."

Gov. Gary R. Herbert said in a statement: "Monuments should be as small as possible to protect artifacts and cultural resources. And they should not be created over the objections of local communities."

Tribes and environmental groups argue the plans will make way for destruction of sensitive cultural areas and vital natural landscapes. They worry Thursday's decision to open public access to the lands will allow for increased road development and off-road-vehicle use that will affect artifacts and ecosystems, while grazing and logging will alter the habitats of many important species.

Belvoir find connects with local families

By Mindy Basara

Condensed from WBAL-TV, February 25, 2020

Crownsville - When an archeologist from the State Transportation Department began investigating lands off of General's Highway in Anne Arundel County, she never imagined the DNA discovery she would make or the impact it would have on the descendants of a slave family.

The Belvoir Plantation in Crownsville holds a lot of history. It was a camp for Revolutionary War soldiers, an estate owned by the family of Francis Scott Key. But there's another family lineage traced to the land.

Through their own genealogy research, Nancy Matthews Daniels and Wanda Watts discovered they are the descendants of Belvoir slaves.

"To find out it was here, it completely blew me away and I started crying," Daniels said.

"I live 22 miles from here. So, I never would have thought that my ancestors would be anywhere in this area at all. We had no clue," Watts said.

Julie Shablitsky, chief archeologist for the State Highway Administration, uncovered the remains of the Belvoir slave quarters dating to the 1700s.

"(One) quarter would have been about a story (tall), story and a half -- made of stone. And it would have had a doorway here, which you would have walked through. In the center, there would have been a massive kitchen and a fireplace, where the person who was enslaved, the cook, would have been preparing meals for the people who were enslaved at Belvoir. She probably had a room in the back building, here, and there was a fireplace there, as well. In fact, in this location we found a clay tobacco pipe," Shablitsky said.

On a small segment of that clay pipe, DNA was found. Scientists determined the pipe user was a woman. They traced her lineage to the Mende people of Sierra Leone, West Africa, giving her descendants a profound sense of identity.

Shablitsky and her team recovered thousands of artifacts from the slave quarters. Things like fine china and brass buttons tell a story. The slaves who used the items likely did not work in the fields, but in the house.

"That's the most important thing about these sorts of sites with a difficult history, a time when people were enslaved, is that they don't always have history written in records and written down in books. So sometimes you have to go into the ground, into the archeology, and pull out those stories and resurrect that history for them," Shablitsky said.

Archeologists also discovered a burial site on the Belvoir property. They suspect those buried there are slaves. The descendants are now looking into raising money to do DNA analysis to find out.

Workshop in Archeology coming March 29

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Patricia Samford will host a workshop on dating late 18th- to mid-19th-Century refined earthenware. Workshop participants will learn datable traits for commonly found ceramics including printed, edged, painted, sponged and dipt (annular) wares. Attendees are welcome to bring ceramics for identification.

Certified Archeological Technician (CAT) candidates can participate in the Prehistoric Overview workshop hosted by Bob Wall and Charlie Hall. This required CAT workshop will give an overview of the history of prehistoric archeology in Maryland, the scope of prehistoric inquiry, as well as the chronological and cultural framework of the precontact era as currently understood in the state. CAT candidates must attend both sessions. If there are seats left over, noncandidates can sit in.

Admission is \$5 for ASM members and \$7 for non-members. Book sales and exhibits will be ongoing.

NOTE: The cafeteria will NOT be open. Participants are urged to bring a brown-bag lunch and socialize.

Wait, there's more: The Symposium and auction

The second part of the spring double-header comes to Crownsville April 18, the annual Spring Symposium. An array of speakers is being lined up to keep you informed on what is happening and interesting in archeology. A program will appear in next month's newsletter.

The Symposium also will feature a silent auction. Auction co-ordinator Elaine Hall Chhean is still looking for more good items to offer the membership, such as archeology-related items, handmade items, gift cards, gift baskets and interesting objects. Any books received will be donated to the ASM book sales or to a local library.

An auction donation form is included with this newsletter, as is a donation request form that can be used in getting businesses or attractions to offer special deals.

Contact Elaine at (SilentAuction@marylandarcheology.org) for additional information. Items should be received by April 15, but let her know they are coming.



Chapter News

In addition to the listed chapters, ASM has chapters at Hood College and the Community College of Baltimore County and a club at Huntingtown High School in Calvert County, run by Jeff Cunningham; visit its website, <http://hhsarchaeology.weebly.com/>

Anne Arundel

Anne Arundel Chapter will be meeting at the Schmidt Center at SERC, the second Tuesday of each month, 7 to 9 p.m. Parking in front of the venue. For information, contact Jim Gibb at JamesGGibb@verizon.net

Central Chapter

Central Chapter holds bimonthly meetings at MICA's Bunting Center, 1401 W. Mt Royal Ave, Baltimore. For information contact Katharine Fernstrom at kwfappraising@gmail.com. New Facebook page is "Central Chapter of the ASM."

Charles County

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday (September-May) at the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Carol Cowherd at ccasm2010@gmail.com. Website ccarchsoc.blogspot.com and Facebook [@ccasm2010](https://www.facebook.com/ccasm2010)

March 12: Esther Doyle Read. TBD.

April 9: Patricia Samford with a Post-Colonial refined earthenware workshop.

Mid-Potomac

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

March 19: Frank Sanford, chapter member, will speak on his Earth Watch travel to South Africa.

April 16: Don Barron, docent at the MOOseum in Germantown Maryland, will speak on the history of dairy farming in Montgomery County and the Museum's history and collections.

May 21: Bob Hines, chapter member, will give an update on and plans for excavation at the Riggs House in Brookeville.

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at digfrederick.com or call 301-378-0212.

Northern Chesapeake

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

March 11: Subject TBA. Historical Society of Cecil County, Elkton.

Friday, April: Date & subject TBA. Edgewood Hall, Harford Community College, Bel Air.

May (Exact date TBA)

Annual Picnic Meeting. St. Patrick's Irish Catholic Church, Conowingo

St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph D. Carter State Office Building in the Russell Conference Room, Leonardtown. For information contact Chris Coogan at Clcoogan@smcm.edu

Upper Patuxent

Meetings the second Saturday or Sunday of the month, at the Heritage Program Office, 9944 Route 108, Ellicott City, unless otherwise noted. www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358 or www.upperpatuxentarchaeology.com or call Kelly Palich, 410 313 0423.

March 8: Archeology of Patapsco Female Institute, at the B&O station museum in Ellicott City.

April 18: The Elkridge site by Robert Wall.

May 9: Steve Curtis and Kelly Palich on the Mill Town of Tridelphia.

Western Maryland

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

March 27: Roy Brown will do a primitive technology presentation on the replication of Native American Containers: "From Deer Stomachs to Ceramic Ware."

April 24: The Susquehannock occupation in western Maryland during the 1600s by Robert Wall.

May: No meeting scheduled.

June 26: TBA

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

ASM members receive the monthly newsletter, ASM Ink; the biannual journal, MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM events and a 10-percent discount on items sold by the Society. Contact Membership Secretary Ethan Bean, 609 N. Paca Street, Apt. 3, Baltimore, MD 21201 for membership rates. For publication sales, not including newsletter or Journal, contact Dan Coates at ASM Publications, 716 Country Club Rd.,

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

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