



# ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

[www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org)

## Changes made in CAT program, guide

By Alex McPhail

*Chairman, the CAT Committee*

The Certified Archeological Technician (CAT) Program is going strong with over 60 active candidates and 10 graduates. Based on feedback from candidates, the CAT Guide has now been extensively revised and made more user friendly.

For example, the number of required readings has been updated and cut to just over 30, and many of those required for the Ethic and Laboratory Techniques sections are available free on the web. A *Getting Started* section has been added and a new and updated Forms section is included.

The revised Guide is on the ASM website and all CAT candidates are encouraged to download and review the new edition.

The next initiative will be to get the entire required reading list on the internet with free access. If anyone is an expert on "fair use doctrine," please let me know.

The CAT committee has decided that candidates who joined the program after April 30, 2010 should follow the new Guide in completing the certification process. Those in the program before that date may choose which version of the CAT Guide they wish to follow.

The CAT committee also has determined that all required workshops should be offered at least once every 18 months and it has developed a calendar for the workshops.

The next workshops (Archeological Ethics and Native American Ceramics Identification) will be held at the upcoming CAT Weekend on November 13 and we are hoping to hold the event jointly with our colleagues from the Virginia and Delaware archeological societies.

The complete workshop calendar appears on Page 3 of this newsletter.

Finally, having your e-mail address on file is an important tool to keep you up-to-date on CAT activities. I sent an e-mail on July 16 to all candidates for whom I have an address. If you did not get it, please contact me (e-mail: [amcphail@worldbank.org](mailto:amcphail@worldbank.org), phone: 202 413-7584).

## Jim Gibb named treasurer, replacing Sean Sweeney

Sean Sweeney, who served many terms as treasurer of ASM, resigned in early July. He took over the post when the books were in disorder and guided the Society to its current well-organized and -run position. With the concurrence of the Board of Trustees, President John Fiveash appointed Jim Gibb as his replacement. Sean had been planning to leave his post in October and Gibb was a candidate for the job.

## Upcoming events

**Through July 31:** Public archeology days at Jefferson Patterson. Call 410 586 8557 to participate.

**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. Howard County Central Library, Columbia. 10 a.m.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:lakerson1@verizon.net) or Charlie Hall [chall@mdp.state.md.us](mailto: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](mailto: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/](http://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.

## Dolores Soul, longtime active ASM member, dies

Longtime ASM member Dolores Soul died May 21 from bone cancer. When not working her day job with the Maryland Department of Education, she took an active part in ASM functions, beginning in the 1960s. A resident of Baltimore City, for a while she was an officer of the Central Chapter and was a frequent participant at ASM meetings and field schools. She maintained a broad collection of archeological books, maps and ASM publications.

## It's up to you:

### Who will win Marye award this year?

Nominations are open for ASM's top annual honor, the William B. Marye Award for outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology. Do you know someone deserving of this recognition? A nomination form is included with this newsletter. The deadline is approaching, so think about it, fill the form out and send it to committee chair Tyler Bastian.

### Who will be ASM's officers for next two years?

The names are offered, the ballots have been distributed. All that is left is for you to make your choices and decide who will be leading ASM for the next two years. All but one of the top positions will be changing, due to term limits, switches and resignations. There are more candidates for trustee positions than there are positions. Biographies of the candidates and a ballot appeared in your July newsletter. Fill it out and make your vote count.

## Barton dig finds three new palisades

**By Roy Brown**

The nine-day dig at the Barton Site, June 12-20, was very successful.

Where investigated, the excavations found what Tim Horsley's magnetometry survey had predicted. Three new palisades, an unusual river cobble feature and what may be one side of a Susquehannock longhouse were revealed. The Deep Unit along the Potomac contained a large Page feature and was taken down three levels below the plowzone.

Though hot, there was a nice breeze most days and we only lost a half hour to rain. We had many people come out and help move a lot of soil: Dr. Bob Wall's 15 Towson students, Brent Chippendale's Boy Scouts working on their archeology merit badge, Darlene Frederick's school students, a number of ASM members from down east and the loyal members of the Western Maryland Chapter.

### Required CAT Workshops: Schedule 2010 and 2011

Workshop	Date	Event	Presenter
Lithic Identification	January 23, 2010	Specific	Ebright
Historic Overview	March 13, 2010	Workshop 2010	Hurry & Dinnel
Historic Ceramics ID	May 19, 2010	Field Session	Samford
Basic Lab Procedures	May 17 & 22, 2010	Field Session	Morehouse
Archeological Ethics	November 13, 2010	CAT Weekend	TBD
Native American Ceramics ID	November 13, 2010	CAT Weekend	TBD
Prehistoric Overview	March, 2011	Workshop 2011	Wall & Hall
Archeological Ethics	TBD	Field Session	TBD
Historic Ceramics ID	TBD	Field Session	TBD
Lithic Identification	November, 2011	CAT weekend	TBD
Basic Lab Procedures	November, 2011	CAT Weekend	TBD

# Probe of Civil War cemetery stymied

By Jesse Yeatman

*Condensed from the Southern Maryland Newspapers, July 7, 2010*

Another battle has broken out over the federal memorial for Confederate soldiers who died at Point Lookout during the Civil War.

"Since last August we've been trying to get the [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs] to mark the mass burial plot," Jim Dunbar said. Dunbar has ancestors who died at the prison camp at Point Lookout. He is a member of the Descendants of Point Lookout Prisoners of War Organization.

Due to erosion, the remains of more than 3,000 people were moved from their original resting places to a burial trench where a federal monument was constructed in 1910 just outside Point Lookout State Park. While there is an 80-foot granite obelisk marking the site, the actual boundaries of the pit are not marked, Dunbar said.

Archeologist James Gibb of Annapolis offered to do a dig for free to determine the burial trench's boundaries. But the National Cemetery Administration, which oversees the site, denied his request.

Gibb wanted to dig between one dozen and two dozen shovel test pits to discover and mark the boundaries of the burial pit, which is believed to be about 20 by 20 feet and behind the monument.

Knowing exactly where the pit is could have benefits for the government, Gibb argued, including helping during renovations to be sure the burial trench is not disturbed. "Oral history is nice, but as a rule it's off by 100 feet," he said.

Gibb said that it would be a low level of effort and that it would not disturb remains. "If [the remains] are less than a foot deep, than we're the least of their problems," Gibb said. "I've worked on cemeteries like this a lot .... There's no risk here."

He sent in the application in May 2009. In October the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration denied the request.

"NCA's mission is to honor veterans with final resting places and provide tributes of their service," said Michael Nacincik, a spokesperson. The NCA by policy will not disturb the remains of buried soldiers unless necessary. "We also believe that the burial site is appropriately marked," he said.

Nacincik said that it is not common to mark the actual boundaries of burial trenches, unless markers were put in specifically when the burials occurred. "We think there are multiple burial trenches on that property," he said.

The NCA is currently doing a study on all Confederate plots, including Point Lookout, and developing interpretive signs and plaques. The NCA's own history department, along with the help of the contractor hired to design the signs, will determine what information is portrayed.

Nacincik said it is possible that information about the exact location or locations of any burial trenches be included on the interpretive signs. "I'm sure the plaque will be representative to the best of our knowledge what really occurred at Point Lookout," Nacincik said.

An offer for the archeologist and the preservation group to use ground-penetrating radar was declined.

The fate of the Confederate remains at Point Lookout has never been clear-cut or without controversy. The bodies were moved three times because of shoreline erosion.

Point Lookout's use as a prison camp began after the Confederate defeat at Gettysburg, Pa., in July 1863. Between 1863 and 1865, more than 50,000 prisoners passed through the prison camp, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Estimates of the number of dead ranges from 4,000 to 14,000.

A \$250,000 renovation to the 80-foot-tall federal monument is under way. In addition to the mortar work, the 12 bronze plaques bearing the 3,426 known names of Confederates who died at the Point Lookout prisoner depot will be cleaned, waxed and buffed.

# Gulf oil spill posing a threat to sites

By Cain Burdeau

*Condensed from the Associated Press, July 4, 2010*

TIMBALIER ISLANDS, La. — Not just flora and fauna are getting caked in oil. So is the Gulf of Mexico's barnacled history of pirates, sea battles and World War II shipwrecks.

The Gulf is lined with wooden shipwrecks, American-Indian shell midden mounds, World War II casualties, pirate colonies, historic hotels and old fishing villages. Researchers now fear this treasure seeker's dream is threatened by BP PLC's deepwater well blowout.

Within 20 miles of the well there are several significant shipwrecks — ironically, discovered by oil companies' underwater robots— and oil is most likely beginning to cascade on them.

"People think of them as being lost, but with the deepsea diving innovations we have today, these shipwrecks are easily accessible," said Steven Anthony, president of the Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society.

"If this oil congeals on the bottom, it will be dangerous for scuba divers to go down there and explore," Anthony said. "The spill will stop investigations. It will put a chill, a halt on (underwater) operations."

The wrecks include two 19th-Century wooden ships known as the "Mica Wreck" and the "Mardi Gras Wreck." The German submarine U-166 and ships sunk by German submarines during World War II are within the spill's footprint.

The Mica was a two-masted schooner that sank sometime before 1850, according to a report by the Minerals Management Service. It was discovered about 2,500 feet deep in the Mississippi Canyon during work to lay a pipeline.

In 2002, the Mardi Gras wreck was discovered by oilfield workers in even deeper waters: About 4,000 feet down about 35 miles off the Louisiana coast. The wreck got its name from the pipeline project where the wreck was found. Researchers with Texas A&M University believe the sunken ship may have been a gun runner or British trader during the War of 1812.

Crews surveying a pipeline project for BP and Shell in the Mississippi Canyon region came across U-166 in 2001. On July 30, 1942, the German submarine torpedoed the passenger-freighter Robert E. Lee, and then itself was sunk by depth charges from the Navy escort PC-566.

The tedious task of examining the wrecks for damage is beginning, though it's uncertain whether BP will be held responsible for ruining underwater sites. Archeologists are fanning out to assess the spill's effect. The Gulf shoreline is chock full of history and to a trained eye the bounty springs out.

"This is like Christmas Day for me," said Courtney Cloy, an archeologist mapping the Timbalier Islands, a barrier island chain on Louisiana's central coast. "I am finding ceramics all over the surface out here."

The origin of the ceramics was unclear. Perhaps they washed in from a shipwreck just offshore. Or they might have come from a hotel or home that once stood on the badly eroded barrier islands.

On the Mississippi coast, Ship Island was the only deep-water harbor between Mobile Bay and the Mississippi River for 300 years; thousands of Europeans first set foot in North America there, earning the nickname Plymouth Rock of the Gulf Coast. During the Civil War, Ship Island was Union Adm. David Farragut's base of operations, where he successfully launched an attack on New Orleans in April 1862.

On Grand Terre Island, just west of the Mississippi River, archeologists have found remnants of a colony set up by Jean Lafitte, the pirate who helped Andrew Jackson win the Battle of New Orleans.

Archeologist hope to avoid the mistakes made during the Exxon Valdez cleanup.

"We learned from Exxon Valdez that there were incidents of looting by cleanup workers, equipment being brought in, destroying the ground," said John Rawls, marine archeologist with Earth Search Inc., a firm hired by BP to do archeological surveys.

Dave McMahan, Alaska's state archeologist and an Exxon Valdez spill veteran, said cleanup workers need to be trained to be aware of their surroundings and to tread lightly on the landscape.

# Ancients practiced climate change too

By Paula Neely

*Condensed from American Archaeology, Summer 2010*

Chemical analysis of a stalagmite near a prehistoric site has revealed that native peoples left a bigger carbon footprint than previously thought. It also shows that humans began affecting global climate as early as 100 BC, according to a recent study by Ohio University scientists.

The 7,000-year-old stalagmite was found in the Buckeye Creek basin of West Virginia, about 200 yards from a cave where a Native American community lived 2,000 years ago, according to Gregory Springer, a geological scientist and the lead author of the study recently published in the journal *The Holocene*.

Springer and research collaborators were studying historic drought cycles in North American using carbon isotopes in stalagmites in 2005 when they discovered an oddity in the stalagmite's carbon record.

Springer said the evidence suggests that the Native American practice of burning trees to clear land and control the species of trees in the forests released a significant amount of carbon into the atmosphere. Forests store carbon in trees, organic litter and soil. When carbon burns, it becomes carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that traps heat and reflects it back to earth, causing global warming. He noted that the ongoing clearing and burning of the Amazon rainforest is one of the world's largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions today.

To corroborate the stalagmite evidence, the team also measured charcoal concentrations in stream sediments near the cave from 6,000 years ago to the present and they tested carbon isotopes derived from soil above the cave.

Those studies showed high levels of charcoal deposits and carbon isotope anomalies that began in 100 BC and peaked around AD 1400, confirming the stalagmite evidence. The levels dropped off markedly until they peaked again in the 1800s after Europeans settled in North America.

"We're the first to come in with real data about the carbon cycle and say that Native Americans were making a difference in the environment," Springer said. "They actively shaped the forest and landscape to suit them," Springer said. For example, he noted that nut trees are fire resistant so they would have survived the fires and thrived with less competition from other trees, producing more food for the natives.

"The Native Americans achieved a pretty sophisticated level of living that I don't think people have fully appreciated," he said.

## Chapter notes

### Anne Arundel

Meets five times a year in February, April, June, September and November 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](mailto:AAChapASM@hotmail.com) or visit the chapter website [www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php](http://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](mailto:ssisrael@verizon.net)

### Charles County

Meetings are held 7 on the first Wednesday (September-May) at Historic LaPlata Train Station. Contact President Carol Cowherd at [cowherdcl@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org), or 301-840-5848 or Don Housley at [donhou704@earthlink.net](mailto:donhou704@earthlink.net) or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: [www.asmmidpotomac.wordpress.com](http://www.asmmidpotomac.wordpress.com) and [www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768](https://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 or [jlazelle@msn.com](mailto:jlazelle@msn.com) or Nancy Geasey at 301-378-0212.

## 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](mailto: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 in Ellicott City. Potluck suppers are held at 6:15 in September and March. Otherwise, dinner is available at the Diamondback restaurant in Ellicott City at 6 p.m. Contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or [leeprestonjr@comcast.net](mailto:leeprestonjr@comcast.net)

**September 13:** Jake Feirson and Lee Preston, The Vaughan Brown Memorial Lecture "The Iglehart Collection: 10,000 Years of Native American History in Howard County."

**November 8:** Jaimie Wilder, "Before Howard Community College : The History and Research of the Bassler Farmhouse."

**Jan. 10:** (Snow Date Jan. 17) Jim Gibb, "Two African American Households in Port Tobacco, 1846-1900."

**March 14:** Anne Hayward, "Textiles in the Tidewater: How Textiles of the Colonial Chesapeake Are Represented in the Archival Record Versus the Archaeological Record."

**May 9:** Lee Preston, "Made in China : Silk, Porcelain and Terra Cotta Soldiers."

## 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](mailto:wmdasm@yahoo.com) Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

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**TIME SENSITIVE: DELIVER BY JUNE 28**

**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](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net).

**Submissions welcome.** Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 6817 Pineway, University Park, MD 20782, 301-864-5289 or [myronbeck@verizon.net](mailto:myronbeck@verizon.net)

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