



ASM Ink

April 2010, Vol. 36, No. 4

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Life in Archaic Maryland, April 10

The annual Spring Symposium will be held in Montgomery County this year with the focus on life in the Early and Middle Archaic periods, a 5,000-year long span that replaced the Paleo.

But this doesn't mean that life during this epoch was without changes until the Late Archaic finally arrived. Trying to present a better picture of the era, the talks will highlight some new finds and re-examine some old ones and look into the technology of the times.

After ASM Vice President Jim Gibb sets the stage, eight speakers will explore the period, looking at a variety of Maryland sites. Local archeologists Peter Quantock and Kelley M. Walter will tell about sites in St. Mary's County and at Accokeek. Steve Israel will detail a newly discovered site in Carroll County and Gibb will travel to Octoraro Farm on the Susquehanna.

Two presentations will focus on soapstone technology. Henry Ward will look at some local quarries and Dan Coates will give a demonstration of steatite carving.

Steatite also figures in one of the two keynote lectures. Rachel Burks, of the department of physics, astronomy and geosciences at Towson University, will explore the possibility of tracing soapstone bowls' origins through geochemical fingerprints.

Finally, archeology scholar Wm. Jack Hranicky will take another look at the Sandy Hill Adena cache found in Dorchester County in 1927.

The meeting will be held at the Agricultural History Farm Park Activity Center in Derwood. Directions and the complete program are inside this newsletter.

ASM members can attend for \$5, while the general public will be admitted for \$7.

Something new for '10 Field School

By Charlie Hall

Maryland Historical Trust

Have you been to the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory at Jefferson-Patterson Park & Museum in Calvert County? Have you taken a tour of the lab? Have you experienced the living history exhibit at the Indian Village? Have you pursued the FAQ archeology exhibit? Have you hiked the three educational trails? Have you visited the four interpreted archeological sites?

The many of you who have know just how special the MAC and JPPM are. In addition to being a truly lovely place, there is so much to do and learn. Those who have yet to get to know this incredible place (and those who have) are being offered an exceptional opportunity this spring to visit, to learn and to

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Upcoming events

April 10: Spring Symposium, Derwood.

April 14 - 18: Society for American Archeology annual meeting, St. Louis.

April 17: Discovering Archeology Day, Jefferson Patterson Park. Information at www.jefpat.org

May 14 - 24: ASM field school, Jefferson Patterson Park.

May 24 - 28: National Park Service is sponsoring archeological workshop at the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site near Stanton, North Dakota. The workshop is open to all archeologists and students interested in forensic and cemetery investigations. \$475. Application forms on the Midwest Archeological Center's web page at www.nps.gov/history/mwac/ For further information, contact Steven L. DeVore at 402-437-5392, ext. 141 or steve_de_vore@nps.gov

June 12 - 20: Barton field session.

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 will soon start work on the Rosenstock (Frederick County) plow zone 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.

A website is available to candidates and graduates: <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/MDcat/> . To join the group email MDcat-subscribe@yahooglegroups.com

What was for dinner 2,000 years ago?

By C. Jane Cox

From Letters from Lost Towns, Winter 2010

Many of our Lost Towns friends and volunteers know that when food is placed in front of certain archeologists, it is quickly devoured – donuts and pizza don't stand a chance. We have recently turned our attention to these core cultural issues of food ways and subsistence in the Middle and Late Woodland Period, as an outgrowth of the work under way at Pig Point.

Subsistence studies explore how Native peoples exploited their environment and found the nutritional resources needed to survive. What they chose to eat is a large part of this investigation and the faunal and archeobotanical materials being diligently recovered at Pig Point may lend new insights into these questions.

The excavations have clearly shown that wild animals, such as deer, elk, wildfowl, even BEARS (oh my!) and aquatic resources such as clam, oyster and fish supported the nutritional needs of Native Americans.

We are also focusing on the plant resources readily available in the rich environment of what is now Anne Arundel County.

While many equate Native American diets with plant cultigens such as corn, beans and squash, these standard staples did not actually come onto the scene until relatively late in the Coastal Plain environment. Early corn is not seen in this Chesapeake Bay coastal plain region until ca. AD 900. Our investigations will explore what the Native American populations were eating *before* the arrival of corn.

The "Eastern Agricultural Complex" is a phrase you may hear in the future, as we believe that this collection of selected plants may have formed the mainstay for Native American diets in the Middle and Late Woodland (200 BC to AD1100) period of Anne Arundel County.

Now we have the task of proving that selectively cultured plants – such as sunflowers, chenopodium, sunflower or marshelder, and native squash – were in fact used by the Native Americans and we hope to explore how they utilized such resources.

We also have speculated that the rich ecosystem in the county offered a broad array of plant materials that Native populations would have exploited in the marsh or riverine environments – such as amaranth, tuckahoe or wild rice.

Food is so culturally sensitive and specific that it offers an opportunity to really understand and appreciate Native American lives. We hope that our investigations in the coming year will help us understand the challenges and rewards these people experienced 2,000 years ago.

And I can't wait to try a yummy amaranth and dandelion salad covered with sunflower seeds, roasted walnuts and blackberries, topped with thinly sliced medium rare roasted elk, with a side of squash, wild rice or tuckahoe.

And what was for dinner only 40 years ago?

By Susan Ferriss

Condensed from the Sacramento (California) Bee, September 2, 2009

NOVATO – The '60s aren't dead. They're in an archeological site north of [San Francisco](#).

An old commune where the [Grateful Dead](#) and other bands used to romp is being excavated and items catalogued by state park archaeologists at Olompali State Historic Park. Among the artifacts: classic hippie beads, a [marijuana](#) "roach clip," fragments of tie-dyed clothes and a reel-to-reel tape.

Also a trove of scorched Coors beer cans and steak bones, which suggested to California state parks archaeologist E. Breck Parkman that commune carnivores may have won out over vegetarians.

After the commune members were gone, Parkman said, the land was controlled by a Jesuit order. Archeologists excavating here in 1976 unearthed a startling find at a Miwok site: an Elizabethan silver sixpence minted in England in 1567 that could have arrived by way of Sir Francis Drake.

Something new for '10 Field School

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dig there. The talented staff of the MAC and JPPM will host the ASM membership at the Tyler Bastian Annual Field Session from May 14 through May 24 and it is putting together quite a calendar of events for us.

In addition to these special events, this year there will be opportunities for participants to work in the MAC lab as an alternative to field work.

The 2010 Field Session be held at the Smith's St. Leonard Site, the homelot of a tobacco plantation occupied during the first half of the 18th Century. The area currently being investigated contains the plantation owner's house, his storehouse and a detached kitchen, a quarter for enslaved workers, and barns.

Under the direction of Ed Chaney, the deputy director of the MAC Lab, the Smith's St. Leonard Site has been the focus of JPPM's Public Archaeology program since 2002. If you heard Ed's talk at the Annual Workshop last month you know how much research and field work already has been done, leading to the fine-tuning questions the Field Session will try to answer.

In addition to digging, screening and washing artifacts in the field, the MAC lab staff, including Ed Chaney, Becky Morehouse (curator of state collections), Patricia (Tricia) Samford (MAC lab director) and Kathy Concannon (MAC lab educator) are planning events that will allow participants to take full advantage of the many special opportunities presented by having the session at the MAC lab. Tricia has offered the following preliminary schedule of special events:

- Friday May 14: Introduction to the Smith's St. Leonard Site with Ed Chaney.
- Saturday May 15: A day of special activities at the Indian Village with Tim Thomas.
- Sunday May 16: Docent tours of the FAQ archeology exhibit.
- Sunday May 16: Docent tours of JPPM archeological sites.
- Monday May 17: Basic lab procedures workshop with Becky Morehouse.
- Monday May 17: MAC lab tours with Kathy Concannon.
- Tuesday May 18: Artifact lifting workshop with Nicole Daub (lead conservator).
- Wednesday May 19: Historic ceramic identification workshop with Tricia Samford.
- Thursday May 20: Small finds workshop with Sara Rivers-Cofield (curator of federal collections).
- Friday May 21: Cleaning techniques for archeological materials with Nicole Daub.
- Saturday May 22: MAC lab tours with Kathy Concannon.
- Sunday May 23: Docent tours of the FAQ archeology exhibit.
- Sunday May 23: Docent tours of JPPM archeological sites.
- Sunday May 23: Basic lab procedures workshop with Becky Morehouse.

This tentative schedule provides a special activity or opportunity each day of the field session. Of special interest for CAT candidates, it includes two sessions of the required lab techniques workshop and one of the required historic ceramic ID workshop. It offers three unique "workshops," one on artifact lifting, one on artifact cleaning and one on small finds.

So this Field Session might well be labeled a Field *and* Lab Session. If you've been waiting for that opportunity to really learn about archeological lab work, this is it. If, however, you look forward to working on your tan, we can help you with that as well.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend. It will be great. A registration form is inside this newsletter.

Dana Kollman joins Haiti team

By Kelly Brewington

Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, February 24, 2010

Dana Kollmann examines ancient skulls on the weekends, teaches anthropology during the week and her four young children can sum up their mother's passion in three words: "Mama studies bones."

Today, the Towson University professor leaves for Haiti for the somber task of identifying the remains of at least 100 Americans believed to have perished in last month's devastating earthquake.

As a member of the federal government's Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Teams, known as DMORTs, she's one of a group of 30 professionals, including coroners and forensic dentists, who process, identify and prepare the remains of disaster victims for burial.

It's gruesome, arduous work. But for Kollmann, a 41-year-old forensic anthropologist from Catonsville, it is an essential mission meant to bring respect and dignity to those who lost their lives in the catastrophe and a sense of closure to their families.

"It's a job that has to be done, and I don't believe everyone can do it," she said. "I feel that those of us who have the skill set to do it, it's our duty. It's our duty to Haiti; it's our duty to mankind. We have to get these people identified and get them back to their families."

While this is Kollmann's first deployment with DMORT, her expertise spans two decades, including stints as a crime scene investigator in Baltimore County, a researcher at the Smithsonian and a grave excavator in the war-torn former Yugoslavia in the mid-1990s. In the Balkans, she worked in small villages blanketed in rubble, littered with land mines and, on occasion, threatened by sniper fire.

Kollmann's two-week deployment will be spent mostly in a makeshift mortuary run on a generator at the Port-au-Prince airport. Wearing a biohazard suit and face shield, she'll examine remains unearthed from the ruins. In most cases, just by looking, she'll be able to tell if a bone is male or female, young or old. Kollmann will look for tell-tale signs in the skull and the hips to determine sex, evidence of growing bones to identify children and weakened ones to distinguish the old.

She might also use X-rays to help make out intricacies she can't see on her own. And when it comes to making a positive identification, she will tap into a database of characteristics of those presumed dead.

Kollmann's group can also run fingerprints through an FBI database, take DNA samples and send what they have found to a lab in the U.S.

The technical challenges are many; even greater are the emotional demands, said Kevin Yeskey, director of the office of preparedness and emergency response for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees DMORTs.

Kollmann thinks coping with the emotional toll can't be taught. You're either able to do it or not.

"You have to be able to turn the emotional switch off," she said. "I don't think there's a word to tell you how to do that. Whether it's a crime scene or a mass grave or a catastrophe like Haiti, the pace is so quick. It's the pace that gets you through it."

But even her resolve was tested while investigating devastating crime scenes in Baltimore County.

"It's difficult, it's doable, until the families would show up," she said. "I would be on a murder scene and just be so engrossed in my job, but as soon as I would hear the wails of the family members, that was more than I could take."

In the days immediately after the Haitian earthquake, State Department officials estimated that about 46,000 Americans were in the country at the time of the quake. Last week, the State Department estimated 2,200 Americans are missing and 103 are presumed dead. Despite a staggering estimated Haitian death toll, DMORT teams identify only Americans. The Haitian government did not ask for U.S. assistance identifying casualties, said Yeskey.

The U.S. government began setting up DMORT teams two weeks after the earthquake, as part of an overarching medical disaster response. They are expected to take 60 days to complete the work, said Yeskey. Groups go down in teams of about 30 for two weeks at a time. Groups have a wide range of expertise and include fingerprint technicians, medical examiners, funeral home directors, pathologists,

Continued on next page

X-ray technicians and legal investigators, mental health specialists and forensic anthropologists like Kollmann.

Kollmann applied to be a DMORT member because she's fascinated by the work. Her interest in all things anthropological began as early as age 8. Growing up in Fallston, while little girls in her neighborhood were playing with dolls, she was digging in the stream behind her parents' house, determined to discover "the Dead Sea Scrolls of Fallston," she said.

In many ways, her deployment in Haiti will be the culmination of various aspects of her expertise - only this one comes with an added sense of duty.

"I teach students how to do this, I work on prehistoric skeletal cases," she said. "And now I can take all of those applications and apply them to a situation like this, where you are actually identifying people and allowing their families to put them to rest."

How will global warming effect sites?

By **Stephanie Taleff Sperling**

Condensed from Letters from Lost Towns, Winter 2010

Earlier this year the Lost Towns Project and the Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Zoning received a grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to study the potential effects of sea-level rise and climate change on archeological and historical sites.

A recent scientific and technical analysis of sea-level rise over the next century conducted by the Maryland Commission on Climate Change projects that coastal communities may experience between 2.7 and 3.4 feet of additional rise by the year 2100. Anne Arundel County is particularly susceptible to sea-level rise given its 530 miles of tidal and nontidal shoreline. We estimate that nearly half of the more than 1,400 recorded archeological sites in the county are located in or near coastal areas.

In an effort to plan for the future of these resources, we are developing a Vulnerability Assessment to identify potential areas of sea-level rise and storm-surge inundation, assess trends and predict impacts of shoreline erosion and develop complete inventories of resources at risk.

This innovative project will be undertaken in partnership with various county agencies and will lead to the introduction of concrete guidelines to the planning and zoning director addressing how we can proactively protect and monitor threatened cultural resources.

This study is one of the first of its kind on this side of the Atlantic. In the words of archeologist Michael J. Kimball, who is with the University of Northern Colorado and organized a panel discussion at the 2008 World Archeological Congress about the impacts of climate change, we are "helping to mark the emergence of a new paradigm for archeology."

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

April 20: Stephen Israel will discuss the Rockdale Road rockshelter.

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 Paula Martino at paulamartino@hotmail.com or 301-752-2852.

April 13: Jim Gibb on the Archaic peoples of Southern Maryland. At the La Plata train station.

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

April 15: Mike Robinson, a chapter member, will give a first-person interpretation of A.C. Richards, the superintendent of Washington, D.C. police force at the time of Lincoln's assassination.

May 20: Nichole Sorensen-Mutchie, from the State Highway Administration, on the archeology at a War of 1812 battlefield site in Bladensburg. (Switched from February.)

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 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 Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

April 16: Tim Riordan on the St. Mary's City chapel and cemetery, at Harford Community College.

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. Potluck suppers are held at 6:15 in September and March. Otherwise, dinner is available at an Ellicott City restaurant. Contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or leeprestonjr@comcast.net

May 17: The 3rd Annual J. Alfred Prufrock History/Archeology Team Competition Game."

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>

April 23: George Evans on "Volunteering at the Jamestown Excavation."

May 28: Robert Wall on "The Barton Site 2009 and 2010."

June 12 – 20: The Barton Site.

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

ASM. Inc members receive the monthly newsletter ASM Ink, the biannual journal MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM events and a 10% discount on items sold by the Society. Contact Membership Secretary Belinda Urquiza for membership rates. For publication sales, contact Dan Coates at ASM Publications, 716 Country Club Rd., Havre de Grace, MD 21078-2104 or 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net.

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