



# ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

[www.smcm.edu/Academics/soan/asm/home/htm](http://www.smcm.edu/Academics/soan/asm/home/htm)

## Free coffee and donuts, twice

ASM members will get two chances for a free breakfast in the next two months. The food comes for no extra charge at the society's two spring events, the Archeology Workshop on March 22 and the Spring Symposium April 26.

The Workshop is being conducted in the familiar checkerboard pattern, with 10 presentations being given in four time slots with three to four alternatives per time period. Four of the sessions will be offered twice, to make the difficult choosing process easier. Both terrestrial and underwater subjects will be covered and some sessions will include hands-on opportunities.

Here's a rundown on the sessions. A flyer with the complete schedule is inside this newsletter.

**Conserving the U.S.S. Monitor.** *Curtiss Peterson.* A look at the massive artifact conservation effort going on to preserve parts of the famous Civil War ship and items found inside it. The task is one of the most complex conservation projects in underwater archeology history.

**A Living Tradition: American Indian Pottery Making in the Middle Atlantic.** *Daniel Abbott.* Pottery is viewed by both Indians and archeologists as a window to ancient traditions and technology, as seen in the materials, form and decoration. Abbott is an American Indian potter.

**Oyster Shells as a Source of Archeological Data.** *Dave Gadsby and Erin Peichowiak.* The speakers, from the Anne Arundel Lost Towns Project, take a look at what they have learned about oysters from shells recovered during the Providence dig.

**Re:discovery Artifact Database and the "Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland" Web Page.** *Jule King and Laura Galke.* The speakers, from the MAC lab, will show how these two resources can be used to learn more about Maryland's rich archeological record.

**Shipboard Science and Hand-on Education for Kids and Kids-at-heart.** *Kristen Harbeson.* In a repeat of a popular program, and one geared (but not exclusively) for children, this Baltimore Maritime Museum staff member shows how math and science can be useful and provides a hands-on look at ship architecture.

**How to Complete Archeological Site Survey Forms.** *Charlie Hall.* Learn how to report sites you have found and contribute to the state inventory of historic properties. This important collection now contains information on more than 11,000 archeological sites.

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**Inside: Important finds at London Town, Jamestown**

# Upcoming events

**March 1:** ASM Board Meeting, 10 a.m. Crownsville. All are welcome.

**March 13 - 16:** Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference, Cavalier Hotel, Virginia Beach, Va. Contact Dennis Pogue at Historic Mount Vernon, 703-780-2000.

**March 22:** All-day workshop, Crownsville.

**March 28 - 31:** ASNC spring dig. Contact Bill McIntyre at 410-939-0768 or [williamlmac@comcast.net](mailto:williamlmac@comcast.net)

**April:** Maryland Archeology Month, various activities throughout the state.

**April 26:** Annual Spring Symposium, Crownsville.

**May 23 - June 2:** Annual ASM Field School, the Winslow Site, Montgomery County

**May 31 - June 8.** Barton 2003 Field Session.

**July 14 - 27:** Archeology Society of Virginia Field School. Keyser Farm site near Luray. Contact Mike Barber, 540-265-5211 or [mbarber@fs.fed.us](mailto:mbarber@fs.fed.us)

## Volunteer opportunities

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

**March 8.** Shovel testing at Smith's St. Leonard Site at JPPM. 410-586-8555.

**April 6, April 27:** The MHT will be conducting site survey work at the McKee-Besher Wildlife Management Area in western Montgomery County. These will be all-day field sessions that will involve strenuous activity (walking, digging, screening, carrying). Work will include map and compass orientation, visual reconnaissance, systematic shovel testing, artifact recognition, site definition, and results documentation. For more info or to register, contact Charlie Hall, 410-514-7665 or [hall@dhcd.state.md.us](mailto:hall@dhcd.state.md.us)

Ongoing: The Northern Chesapeake Chapter is offering lab work, usually on Tuesdays, Thursdays and some Sundays between 9 am and 2 pm. Call Bill McIntyre at 410-939-0768 or [williamlmac@comcast.net](mailto:williamlmac@comcast.net).

Lab work on Winslow Site artifacts. Call Katherine Clermont at 202-885-1840.

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County, 410-222-7441.

## Linkages:

Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, DC. Programs and a newsletter. 3106 18<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington, D.C., 20010 or [www.pcswdc.org](http://www.pcswdc.org)

Lost Towns Project. Ongoing search for colonial sites in Anne Arundel County. Lisa Plumley, Office of Planning and Zoning, 2664 Riva Road, MS 6401, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 or call 410 - 222 - 7441.

**CAT Corner – See Volunteer opportunities above**

# Courthouse possibly found at London Town

By Andrea F. Siegel

*Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, February 4, 2003*

Anne Arundel County archeologists suspect that their hurried dig next to historic London Town park has unearthed the spot where the county's second courthouse stood three centuries ago.

"I am more convinced than ever that it may be the courthouse," county archeologist Al Luckenbach said yesterday.

If it is the courthouse that served from 1684 to 1695, the find would corroborate sparse surviving records indicating that the building was perched along Scott Street, the main drag of the colonial port of London Town, he said.

Located along the South River, the 100-acre London Town settlement was a bustling tobacco port and key ferry point from 1683 through the mid-1700s. The original buildings are long gone, but a 23-acre park and archeological site, Historic London Town and Gardens, remains. Communities have grown up around it.

An emergency dig on private property adjacent to the park, spurred by the owner's plans to tear down a home and build a larger one, netted nothing of interest until two days before the dig's scheduled end when the shivering archeologists unearthed bits of red clay and charred wood characteristic of a hearth.

Two days later, they found what appeared to be a post that helped hold up the structure.

The dig was extended for three more days and yesterday evidence of another post and artifacts relating to smoking and drinking - bits of pipestems, chips of a Delft-type punch bowl and at least nine broken wine bottles - turned up close to the hearth.

"Alcohol was a primary component of the flow of justice," Luckenbach said.

With privies often located uphill from wells, the safety of drinking water was iffy. Colonists favored cider, wine, brandy, ale and rum.

The county park is on one side of what in the late 1600s was Scott Street. County archeologists have been excavating there for more than seven years, turning up evidence of colonial life, including Rumney's Tavern and other of the port's businesses.

But this is archeologists' first glimpse of what lies beneath the ridge on the other side of Scott Street, Luckenbach said.

"The only clue that it might be the courthouse is the lack of bones and shells. Places that were lived in generated a whole lot of garbage," Luckenbach said.

The courthouse, probably a 25-foot square building, replaced one in the southern part of the county that collapsed from neglect in 1683.

The new official building was built in London Town. There the court stayed until 1695, when legislators decided - in the absence of Lord Baltimore, who wanted London Town as the colonial seat of government - to move the capital from St. Mary's City to Annapolis, Luckenbach said.

The chilly dig resulted from an agreement between Harikant and Kunjlata Shah, who have owned the property for about a decade, and Anne Arundel County. The Shahs could not be reached for comment.

The two have critical-area violations on their waterfront property, but the county did not pursue them, county officials said. Last year, officials told the owners they could address the violations through reforestation, removal of a structure on the property and permits for the new construction, according to letters from the county.

Terms included an agreement signed in September that allowed archaeologists onto the site for three weeks as soon as permits were issued, which happened Jan. 13.

The dig began with temperatures in the single digits and snow falling. Bundled-up workers hacked the topsoil into tiles. Yesterday, with a high of more than 40 degrees, seemed like a heat wave to workers.

The Maryland Historical Trust gave \$20,000 to help fund the dig, enabling Luckenbach to hire temporary workers and heat a "digloo," a white metal and Plexiglas building where small teams sifted dirt through screens.

Outside, a few dozen yards away, Karen Ackermann of Bowie, a paid temporary worker, wore six layers of clothing as she scraped dirt under a crisp white canopy.

*(Note: Despite the find, work will proceed on the new house.)*

# Important burial found at Jamestown

*From wire reports*

JAMESTOWN, Va. -- Archeologists have found what appears to be the grave - and the relatively well-preserved skeleton - of Jamestown founder Bartholomew Gosnold where the 17<sup>th</sup> century colony's fort once stood.

"We've excavated over 70 burials here and this is the first burial we've found so far that has a ceremonial object, so we know this was someone very special," said William Kelso, archeological director of the Association for Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, at a Feb. 12 press conference.

Gosnold, little known to Americans but a hero in England, arranged the financing for the Jamestown expedition to establish an English colony in the New World after the failure of a settlement at Roanoke Island.

Although Gosnold was a leader of the venture and designed the triangular fort, Capt. John Smith is much better known because of his extensive writings about Jamestown and his exploration of Chesapeake Bay.

Gosnold died Aug. 22, 1607, four months after arriving in Jamestown (about two-thirds of the settlers died that summer), but the exact location of his grave was lost.

Kelso said the grave and skeleton are considered a major find.

"This is off the charts," he said of the discovery, which was made in December on the small portion of Jamestown Island that is owned by the association. The rest is managed by the National Park Service.

"First we found the fort site had not been washed into the river and then we find the grave of a principle person," he said. "This is the highlight of my career."

Kelso said that between 1607 and 1610 - an approximate time frame for the grave - about four high-ranking settlers were among the many deaths the colony suffered, leading archeologists to several possible identities of the skeleton.

But Kelso said Gosnold was by far the most important, and he suspects that the grave's placement inside the fort, along with the artifacts found with it, support a historical narrative that describes the captain's "honorable" burial for his contributions to the settlement.

Kelso said he would await DNA results before saying the remains are Gosnold's. The bones will be reinterred after an analysis is completed, most likely at the place where they were found, according to association spokeswoman Paula Neely.

Kelso said the skeleton was in remarkably good condition.

"We don't know why that is," he said. "It's a puzzle and we are studying that. It may have been the soil type or the drainage."

The grave was undisturbed for nearly 400 years because the land was never farmed and was protected by earthen breastworks built by Confederate soldiers on the fort's footprint, Kelso said. Since 1889, the association has protected the site.

Gosnold is also known for an earlier expedition in which he explored the coasts of Massachusetts and Maine, staying long enough to name an island, Martha's Vineyard, after his infant daughter and Cape Cod after the plentiful fish there.

**FRANK AND ERNEST BOB THAVES**



## Charles McNett's collection given to state

The Charles McNett's archeological collection at the American University, representing the artifacts and records of the Potomac River Valley Archeological Survey Project, has been donated to the Maryland Archeological Conservation Laboratory at the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum.

McNett retired from American University after helping to establish and teach the Ph.D program in Anthropology from 1967 to 2002. He is now living in Hanover, Pennsylvania. Joe Dent of American University worked with Betty Seifert, Wayne Clark and Rebecca Moorehouse of JPPM in arranging for the transfer of the collection, which is now completed.

McNett was the first archeologist at the American University to have a career-long interest in the archeology of the Indians of the Middle Atlantic region. In 1968, he and William Gardner of Catholic University agreed to undertake a joint research project of the entire Potomac River valley.

Artifacts from over 25 sites from Montgomery County, 6 from St. Mary's County, 25 from Charles County and a few sites from Calvert, Frederick, Anne Arundel and Garrett Counties are included in the collection. Collections from the Virginia sites and federal lands have been donated to the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service.

In 1972 focus of Catholic University turned to the Thunderbird Paleo-Indian site in the Shenandoah valley. In 1974 the American University turned its research efforts to the multi-year excavations of the Shawnee-Minisink site in the upper Delaware valley. The joint Potomac River Valley Archaeological Survey Project came to a close with these different focuses. The survey continued at American University with the efforts of individual students like Mac McDaniel, until the retirement of June Evans from the program in the 1990s. Joe Dent has renewed interest with his recent work at the Hughes and Winslow sites (which continue with this year's ASM Field School).

## Workshop offers a variety of topics

*Continued from Page One*

**Shipwrecks from 1779 to 1944.** *Claire Peachey.* An update on several projects of the U.S. Navy Naval Historical Center Underwater Archeology Branch, including the 1779 Penobscot Expedition site, D-Day wrecks off France and the Civil War wrecks the HL Hunley, USS Housatonic and CSS Alabama.

**Hard Hat Diving in Underwater Archeology.** *J.B. Pelletier and Dave Woodard.* Underwater archeologists are turning more to specialized technologies from military, commercial and geophysical organizations. After an introduction on the use of helmet diving, participants will have the opportunity to try on the equipment.

**Primitive Cordage: Keeping It Together.** *Guy Neal.* A primitive technologist talks about different cordage materials, as well as various projects and uses. The session will include a demonstration of making cordage by finger twisting and leg rolling.

**Spinning Straw into Gold. Homespun Textile Manufacture.** *Susan Langley.* In a change from her usual underwater focus, she will discuss and demonstrate handspinning techniques, including use of a "great" wheel and a modern upright wheel. Plus a hands-on opportunity.

In addition to the talks, there will be exhibits and book sales, including Dick Brock's Famous Bargain Book Sale, where you can pick up great used books at great prices.

The April 26 Symposium will offer seven speakers on various aspects of "Maryland's Changing Landscapes: From the Rise of the Chesapeake to the Rise of the Suburbs." Speakers are Jeffrey Halka of the Maryland Geological Survey, Darrin Lowery of Chesapeake Watershed Archeological Research, Jesse Walker of Temple University, Virginia Busby of the U.S. Army Environmental Center, Mike Lucas of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Rick Ervin of the State Highway Administration and Julie Erinstein of the University of Maryland, College Park.

More information on this event will be in the April newsletter.

There is a charge for each meeting, \$4, or \$6 for non-ASM members. The coffee and donuts are free.

## Site looters lose in two recent cases

*From wire sources*

A Florida man has been handed a bill for \$10,000 for looting a site in Puerto Rico and two Missourians have been found guilty of robbing a site in that state.

The Puerto Rican case is the first conviction for a violation of the Archeological Resources Protection Act at a World Heritage Site in the United States.

On Jan. 30, U.S. District Court Judge Ralph W. Nimmons Jr. sentenced James Fralick, 57, of Callahan, Florida, who pled guilty last September, to three years probation and ordered him to pay \$10,061.89 restitution and \$200 in special assessments to the National Park Service for violations of the Archeological Resources Protection Act stemming from his role in the theft of artifacts from the El Morro Castle. El Morro, a 16th century fort in San Juan, Puerto Rico, is part of the San Juan National Historic Site, managed by the Park Service.

A Park Service investigation said that in 1995, Fralick was hired as a contractor to clean vegetation away from the fort. Fralick entered a little known passageway where he found artifacts, some dating back to the 16th century. Fralick removed some of the artifacts and took them to Florida. In 2000 he sold a lead bar to co-defendant Danny Macon for \$1,000.

Fralick later told Macon how to get into the site to find more artifacts. On June 7, 2000, Fralick and Macon broke into the fort and attempted to locate additional artifacts.

Macon was arrested by FBI agents on January 14, 2003, and is in custody in Tampa, Florida, facing a six-count indictment.

Meanwhile, two men admitted in federal court in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, January 27 that they illegally dug up an ancient burial site near Lake Wappapello in southeastern Missouri.

Steven S. Tripp and William T. Cooksey each pleaded guilty to one count of destroying archeological resources and one count of damaging federal property.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul Hahn said the prosecution of the two men sent an important message to people who might desecrate grave sites or carry out illegal archeological digs. "We will prosecute these kinds of cases," he said. "Protecting the sanctity of Native American burial sites is important to this office."

The men face a total of 12 years in prison and up to \$270,000 in fines. Sentencing will be April 28.

## Julie King to head SHA

Julie King, the director of the Maryland Archeological Conservation Lab at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, has been chosen the new president of the Society for Historical Archeology.

The Society, founded in 1967, is a professional and scholarly body of archeologists concerned with the post-1400 world. It has 2,300 members worldwide, though most are in North America and Europe.

In addition to her duties at the MAC Lab, Julie is an adjunct faculty member at St. Mary's College of Maryland. She is familiar to ASM members (and a member herself) through her talks at various functions. She is on the agenda, again, for the March 22 Workshop.

## Chapter notes

### Anne Arundel

The chapter meets on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:30-9 in the Chesapeake Room, Heritage Center, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis. Contact Karen Ackermann at karenlta@juno.com

**March 19:** Bill McIntyre on the Concord Point lighthouse.

**April 16:** Richard Marrin will speak about his dig at Passage Point, New Jersey.

**May 21:** Get Psyched for the Field Session! Share your experiences, photos and artifacts from a past field session or some other dig. The meeting will be topped off with a pot-luck dessert spread.

## Central

Central Chapter is having no formal monthly meetings this winter. Telephone Stephen Israel at 410- 945-5514 evening, 410-962-0685 day, or by email; [ssisrael@abs.net](mailto:ssisrael@abs.net), for information.

## Mid-Potomac

**March 18:** Primitive technology workshop, Part II. Needwood Mansion, Derwood, Maryland. Contact Jim Sorensen or Heather Bouslog at 301-840-5848

**May 3:** (Raindate May 10) Needwood Mansion. (Excavating in Clarksburg.) Contact Jim Sorensen or Heather Bouslog at 301-840-5848. Includes lecture on the French and Indian War site at Dowden's Ordinary. Fee \$5.

## Monocacy

Monocacy Archaeological Society meets the Wednesday closest to the 15th of each month at the Walkersville Middle School. Contact Joy Hurst at 301-663-6706 or e-mail [hurst\\_joy@hotmail.com](mailto:hurst_joy@hotmail.com).

## Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month, usually at Harford Glen, but not always. Check the date for actual location. Meetings start at 7 with the program beginning around 7:40.

**March 13:** Henry Ward on the Herring Island dig in the Elk River. Meeting at the Perryville Community Center.

**April 10:** Icehouse opening. Meeting being held at Liriodendron.

## Southern

Call 410-586-8584 for information.

## Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of each month at Mt. Ida, near the court house in Ellicott City. For information contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or [lpreston@mail.howard.k12.md.us](mailto:lpreston@mail.howard.k12.md.us)

**March 10:** Erin Piechowiak speaking on "Colonial Folklore."

**April 14:** Steve Israel will talk on rock shelters.

## Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 pm in the LaVale Library, unless otherwise advised. Contact Ed Hanna, 301-777-1380. Chapter Email- [wmdasm@yahoo.com](mailto:wmdasm@yahoo.com) Web site - [www.geocities.com/wmdasm](http://www.geocities.com/wmdasm)

**March 28:** Cresaptown Site: A New Look at the Data, by Dana Kollman.

**April 25:** Learning to Live Together in Prehistory: The Potomac Valley Experiments, by Dr. Richard J. Dent.

**May 23.** Barton Update / 2003 Field Session Briefing by Robert Wall.

**May 31-June 8.** Barton 2003 Field Session

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

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

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