

# ASM Ink

February 2016, Vol. 43, No. 2

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



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

## Collecting data before it is too late

By **Stephanie T. Sperling**

*Lost Towns Project*

Located on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay, Anne Arundel County is almost completely surrounded by tidal and nontidal waterways and has over 530 miles of shoreline. Nearly 1,600 archeological sites have been recorded in the county spanning 13,000 years of human history. Many of these sites show that people have long lived, worked and played along our waterways, but this coastal heritage is in imminent danger of eroding away or disappearing under rising seas.

Anne Arundel County cultural resource professionals have spent the last five years considering how to respond to the effects of a changing climate on archeological sites. In 2010, a countywide vulnerability assessment revealed that 422 sites were endangered by sea-level rise. That number has since ballooned to nearly 500 threatened sites.

The goal of the 2010 study, undertaken with help from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources through the Coastal Communities Initiative Program, was to examine potential climate change impacts across the county and develop adaptation strategies.

Archeologists first undertook a GIS-based desk audit of each threatened site, providing an initial assessment of the resources. This also helped them choose 20 percent of the sites to physically visit, where each resource was ranked according to its significance, condition, level of previous investigation and threat level. They found that prehistoric, or Native American, oyster shell middens were, by far, the most threatened type of site, with over 80 percent in danger of disappearing in the next 100 years.

A 2011 Anne Arundel County Sea Level Rise Strategic Plan was the outcome of the assessment. This plan determined that common responses for other resources, specifically "retreat" and "protection in place" are not options to address threats to sites. A site is an irreplaceable resource that cannot be moved and cannot be indefinitely protected. Recovery and subsequent preservation of the data are the only viable options, but immediate action is needed to collect the unique site information.

Following this two-year study, local nonprofits obtained grants to implement strategies established by the planning team. Their goal was to systematically and scientifically "remove" site data before Mother Nature unsystematically destroys it.

Funds from the Preservation Maryland Heritage Fund were obtained in 2011 to form a "SWAT" team of professional archeologists and trained volunteers which can quickly and efficiently excavate and mitigate threatened coastal sites before information is lost. Three low-lying coastal sites were excavated as part of this grant and several local community groups participated in the process.

In 2015, the SWAT team model was utilized again when the Lost Towns Project was awarded a grant from the federal Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Fund to excavate portions of five sites damaged during that

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## Upcoming events

**March 5:** ASM Board Meeting, Heritage House, 9944 Route 108, Ellicott City. 10 a.m. All members welcome.

**March 10 - 13:** Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference, Ocean City, Md.

**March 26:** Annual Workshop in Archeology, Crownsville.

**April:** Archeology Month. Special events throughout the state.

**April 6 - 10:** Society for American Archaeology annual meeting, Orlando, Florida.

**April 9:** Spring Symposium, Crownsville.

**April 16:** Discover Archeology Day, Jefferson-Patterson Park, 10 - 5. Call 410 586 8501 by April 1 to register. Visit [jef-pat@maryland.gov](mailto:jef-pat@maryland.gov) for information. Also contact if you wish to volunteer to help.

## Volunteer opportunities

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

**ASM Tuesday Volunteer Lab:** The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 3 and is now cataloging Mason Island II (18MO13) material. This is a large collection of prehistoric material. As always, anyone interested in working in the lab (especially CAT candidates) is welcome. Contact Louis Akerson at [lakerson1@verizon.net](mailto:lakerson1@verizon.net) or Charlie Hall at [charles.hall@maryland.gov](mailto:charles.hall@maryland.gov)

A volunteer opportunity is available at a 17 Century site in Edgewater in Anne Arundel County, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, with Jim Gibb [jamesggibb@verizon.net](mailto:jamesggibb@verizon.net) and Laura Cripps [lcripps@howardcc.edu](mailto:lcripps@howardcc.edu) under the auspices of the Smithsonian. Contact either one to participate. There will be magnetometer training.

**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 [jamesggibb@verizon.net](mailto:jamesggibb@verizon.net)

**Montgomery County** offers opportunities for lab and field work. Lab is at Needwood Mansion in Derwood on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and the first Tuesday evening of each month (except July and August). 301 563 7531 or contact [heather.bouslog@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:heather.bouslog@montgomeryparks.org) CAT opportunity. It also is doing fieldwork at the Josiah Henson site at various times. For information contact Cassandra Michaud at 301 563 7532 or [cassandra.michaud@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:cassandra.michaud@montgomeryparks.org)

**The Anne Arundel County** Archaeology Program and the Lost Towns Project welcome volunteers in both field and lab at numerous sites throughout Anne Arundel County. Weekdays only. Email Jasmine Gollup at [volunteers@losttownsproject.org](mailto:volunteers@losttownsproject.org) or call the lab 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 [ed.chaney@maryland.gov](mailto:ed.chaney@maryland.gov) 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.

## CAT corner:

For information and the latest news on the CAT program, visit the ASM website.

## Silent Auction to be held at Spring Symposium

The Spring Symposium is returning to Crownsville this year and will be held Saturday, April 9. In addition to a variety of speakers, one highlight will be the popular silent auction, to benefit ASM's analysis fund.

This is our annual opportunity to do some fundraising and some shopping. Actually, it is our only fundraiser. Individual members as well as chapters should consider what they can donate to the auction. While archeology-related donations are encouraged, the donations don't have to be. Have you some books, a nice work of art, some DVDs or CDs? You can contact businesses and request them to donate goods or services for this event. What can you donate and whom can you contact for additional donations - a weekend at a B&B, theater tickets, a stay at a vacation cottage, restaurant coupons, a spa visit, etc.?

If you have any questions, suggestions or would like to help at the event, contact Elaine Hall at [SilentAuction@marylandarcheology.org](mailto:SilentAuction@marylandarcheology.org). A form for letting her know what you have is with this newsletter.

## Buried ship found in Va. construction site

By Patricia Sullivan

*Condensed from the Washington Post, January 5, 2016*

A large, heavy ship, scuttled between 1775 and 1798, is being dug out of its damp grave at the site of a new hotel construction project in Old Town Alexandria.

Archeologists found the blackened partial hull of a ship at 220 S. Union St., part of the city's major redevelopment of the Potomac River waterfront. It's on the same one-block site where workers two months ago discovered a 1755 foundation from a warehouse that is believed to have been the city's first public building.

"It's very rare. This almost never happens," said Dan Baicy, the hard-hatted field director for Thunderbird Archeology, the firm watching for historic evidence during construction. "In 15 years that I've done this work, I've never run into this kind of preservation in an urban environment where there's so much disturbance."

On Monday, naval archeologists joined the crew at the site and help dismantle the vessel, timber by timber, looking for artifacts and markings that could identify it and show where it sailed and what it carried. After a brief public viewing, the wood was removed from the site.

Digging by hand, archeology crews uncovered a nearly 50-foot-long remnant of the keel, frame, stern and flooring, estimated to be about one-third of the original hull. The wood did not decay, Baicy said, because once it was buried, oxygen could not reach it.

Luck also played a factor in the preservation. A huge brick footing for a later warehouse "barely missed the boat," Baicy said.

Archeologists believe it may have been placed at the site to provide the framework to fill in the cove and sand flats at Port Lumley, one of two spots where the deep-water channels of the Potomac approach the shoreline.

The wood will be stored in tanks or in a natural body of water and monitored until a preservation lab has room for it, said Fran Bromberg, Alexandria's archeologist. The Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab in St. Leonard took the old warehouse but has run out of room and cannot accommodate the ship, Bromberg said.

The excavation site is just a block from one of several remaining cobblestone streets in Old Town, near many pre-Revolutionary War buildings.

Workers also recently uncovered a large privy, six feet long and possibly three seats wide, the third such outhouse found as part of the hotel project. Such discoveries are just as exciting to archeologists as the ship and the warehouse, because they contain ceramics, glass, bones and all sorts of other debris that people threw into them centuries ago.

For some reason, we've found a lot of shoes," said Baicy, who has already begun excavating there.

# ASM to explore adding maritime to CAT

By Susan Langley

*Maryland State Maritime Archeologist*

In response to requests from the membership, the ASM Board has determined to explore augmenting the CAT Program with maritime-related courses.

In response to an ASM mailing, some 20 people have expressed an interest in the idea. Living in the Chesapeake region it is not surprising that members have expressed a desire to include research and projects relating to Maryland's maritime heritage.

While it's relatively easy to add pertinent segments to existing CAT courses, such as those for ethics and law, or laboratory techniques, other courses will be developed. As with the present CAT Program, some courses may be mandatory and others would be optional or elective.

Although some ASM members may be SCUBA divers, courses would not involve diving.

The Institute of Maritime History (IMH), a non-profit organization with an active membership in Maryland, has already drafted the outline for a research project that would aid its current search for the fleet scuttled by Lord Dunmore in the Potomac River off St. George's Island in August, 1776.

A pilot class, Introduction to Ship Architecture, is being offered at the Maryland Historical Trust in Crownsville on Sunday, January 31 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (this will include refreshments and breaks) and the same class will be offered again on Sunday, February 7 at the same time.

These will be followed on Saturday, February 13 (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) with a tour of the sloop-of-war Constellation in Baltimore Harbor. This provides an opportunity to see and touch the elements covered in the class.

While the classroom portion is free of charge, there is an admission fee for the ship; the group rate is \$8 per person.

Participants should plan to meet at the ship by 10, rain or shine. Dressing in layers is advised. The tour will pause at noon to watch and, if desired, participate in firing the parrot gun on the spar deck.

Anyone interested in attending either class and/or the tour of the Constellation, must confirm with Susan Langley ([susan.langley@maryland.gov](mailto:susan.langley@maryland.gov)) by close of business Tuesday, January 26 to ensure sufficient seating and handouts are available.

## Showing your ASM affiliation is tax-deductible

Sixty members already are showing their interest in archeology with an ASM license plate. The plates are available for all ASM members and obtaining them is easy and only 10 tax-deductible dollars.

To begin you need an MVA form VR-124. You can get one from an MVA office or from ASM's license plate co-ordinator, Ilka Knuppel Gray, at 667-308- 2650, or [knuppelgray@gmail.com](mailto:knuppelgray@gmail.com)

Send the completed form to her at 4 Mullingar Court, Unit 201, Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093. Enclose two checks, one made out to the MVA for \$25 and one to ASM for \$10. She will authorize the form and send it to the MVA. Plates will be ready in a few weeks.

To pick up your new plates, you must turn in your current ones, if you have any. The ASM plates will arrive with a new registration form and new stickers (with the old expiration date). Renewals are handed by MVA in the same way and at the same cost as standard plates.

The \$25 MVA cost is a one-time charge.

If you have questions, contact Ilka or Larue Sauer, MVA Title Correspondence Unit, 410-768- 7222, or <http://www.mva.maryland.gov/vehicles/specialty-plates/organizational-sp.htm>.

## Digging after the digging has finished

"... for those having a professional responsibility toward the past, the pleasures of finding must be subordinated to the discipline of finding out." -- Ivor Noel Hume, "All the Best Rubbish"

# Bill would allow digging up mounds

By Jason Stein

*Condensed from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, January 2, 2016*

Madison — landowners could excavate and possibly develop some of the surviving Indian mounds of Wisconsin — many dating back more than a millennium — under legislation by two lawmakers.

The bill from Sen. Chris Kapenga (R-Delafield) and Rep. Robert Brooks (R-Saukville) would shift the balance of state law more toward private property rights and away from the preservation of one of the state's unusual features.

The earthen burial mounds, shaped like bears, deer, panthers, birds and people, can stretch hundreds of feet in length or width and are one of the most enduring forms of art in the state. It's been estimated that 80 percent were plowed under or otherwise destroyed to make way for farms and buildings, and those remaining sites that are cataloged are protected from disturbance by state law.

Robert Birmingham, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha and a former state archeologist, called the mounds a "world archeological wonder."

"It is unparalleled in that we have the mounds, some of them in awesome proportions.... Having such an explicit monumental architecture (of early natives) that reflects their religious beliefs is amazing," he said.

The draft bill on the mounds has already won some powerful backers, including the Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce and the Wisconsin Builders Association. It arises in part from a case involving Wingra Stone and Redi-Mix, which owns a quarry north of McFarland where an effigy mound has blocked the extraction of materials around and below it.

Under the draft measure, the Wisconsin Historical Society would be required to give property owners a permit allowing them to investigate at their own expense whether their mounds contain burial remains, either through an archeological dig or through ground-penetrating radar. If the mounds contained no remains, landowners could use their property however they wished.

"While (the draft bill) will maintain the (Historical Society) mission to protect human burial sites and preserve history for future generations, it will also make common-sense reforms to current law to help ensure private property is not wrongly placed on the SHS burial site catalog and essentially frozen from use," Kapenga and Brooks wrote in a memo to other lawmakers.

The leaders of the Ho-Chunk Nation count the mound builders as ancestors of their tribe and they have launched a website to counter the bill.

"These are sacred sites and for many of them it would be like churches and mosques are (for other believers). This is how we would consider them," said tribal president Wilfred Cleveland.

Cleveland said tribal officials plan to meet soon with Kapenga about the bill. For his part, Kapenga said in an email he would hold off on commenting more about his legislation until after that meeting.

Effigy mounds in southern Wisconsin and surrounding states date to the Late Woodland Period, from 700 to 1100. They were often built in clusters and some can still be found in Milwaukee suburbs and in Madison. Some are geometric shapes while others clearly depict spirits or birds with up to 600-foot wingspans, nearly equal to the length of two football fields. Students across Wisconsin learn about them in state history classes.

Birmingham said human remains have been found in about 90 percent of excavated mounds.

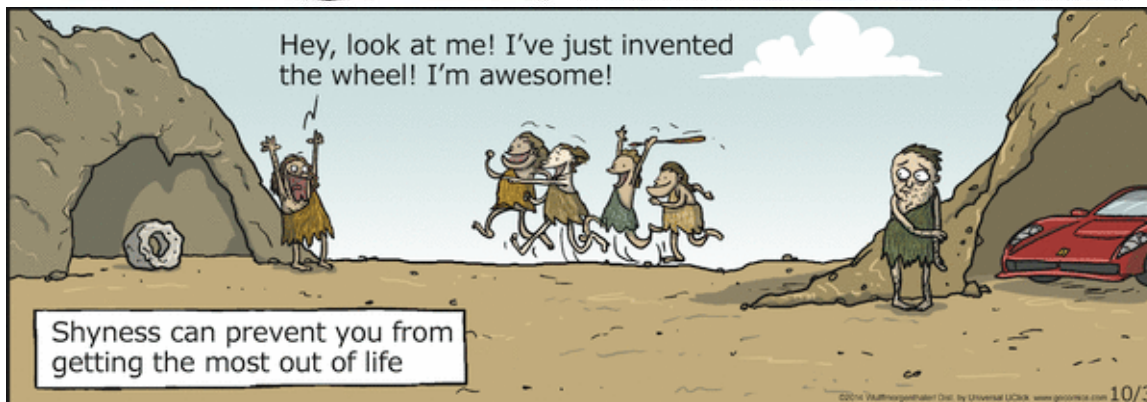
Cleveland said that in some cases human remains in a mound may have decomposed. Either way, his tribe is opposed to disturbing not only the burial sites but what they represent.

Under current law, the state will take action at times to protect recognized effigy mounds, such as an occasion in January 2008 when Pabst Farms developers were ordered to repair and better protect panther-shaped mounds near a large construction site after work crews damaged them.

The bill has the potential to affect more mounds than those at issue with Wingra Stone, however. Its provisions would affect every burial mound that has been cataloged by the state as well as those that may turn up in the future.



## The Comic Page



## Have you your ASM membership renewed yet?

With a whole slew of spring activities just beyond the nearest snowpile, renew now if you haven't already. For those who have, thanks, and we are sorry for all these reminders to your procrastinating fellow members,

## MHT is offering a paid summer internship in archeology

The Maryland Historical Trust is seeking candidates for its 2016 Summer Internship in Archeology. The chosen intern will work under the general supervision of the chief archeologist and time will be divided between office/laboratory and field work in support on the Trust's terrestrial and maritime archeology programs.

Current graduate students in anthropology/archeology are preferred. Students now enrolled in or who have recently graduated from an accredited undergraduate program in anthropology/archeology or other closely related fields are encouraged to apply. The internship carries a paid stipend of \$4,025.

The announcement and application information are available at <https://mht.marylandgov/documents/pdf/archeology/2016-Summer-Internship/pdf>

## Collecting data before it is too late

**Continued from Page One**

mega-storm. Three prehistoric sites were excavated during the summer and fall of 2015, one base camp and two shell middens, while two historic sites, the ruins of an 18<sup>th</sup> Century manor house and the home of an 18<sup>th</sup> Century tailor, are slated for investigation this spring.

Thus far, archeologists have found that while large portions of these sites have been destroyed by natural forces, there is still much left to learn. At River Farm on Jug Bay, they discovered remains of people fishing, hunting and living on the Patuxent River for at least 8,000 years. At the Martin's Pond shell midden on the Severn River, they were able to identify several different oyster harvesting and processing areas of the site. And at the heavily eroded Aldridge shell midden on Herring Bay, they found one of the earliest oyster harvesting camps on the Chesapeake Bay, full of exotic and local artifacts suggesting people once flocked to this bountiful area from hundreds or perhaps thousands of miles away.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Have you contacted the governor or your legislators yet about saving threatened sites?*

## Militant Oregon occupiers said to threaten finds

**By Kristina Killgrove**

*Condensed from Forbes Science, January 21, 2016*

From the outset of the now weeks-long occupation of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge in Oregon by the militia led by Ammon Bundy, archeologists as well as members of the Burns Paiute Tribe have been concerned for ancient artifacts and sacred spaces. Their fears were realized this week as news reports discussed bulldozing of land and a video surfaced of armed militants rifling through boxes of artifacts archived at the refuge.

Indian Country Today Media Network (ICTMN) has the best coverage thus far, in a piece by Jacqueline Keeler titled, "Oregon Militia Nuts Hold Paiute History, Artifacts Hostage." There are thousands of artifacts stored in the building that is being occupied by the militia. They also removed a fence called "a deterrent to keep fire crews from driving across the archeological site."

This is not the first time Bundy supporters have damaged or held Native American heritage hostage. In 2014, half a dozen people rode ATVs through Recapture Canyon in Utah, destroying ancient Puebloan home sites. And petroglyphs in Gold Butte, Nevada, may also have been defaced by Bundy supporters.

LaVoy Finicum and others talk repeatedly about how they want to return the artifacts to "their rightful owners." The Paiute agree that the objects need to be rescued - but rescued from the militia members. Chairperson Charlotte Rodrique of the Burns Paiute tribe is quoted as saying that "we feel strongly because we have had a good working relationship with the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge" prior to the occupation. "We view them as a protector of our cultural rights in that area." The Paiute helped archive the artifacts at the refuge in the first place.

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## Chapter notes

In addition to the listed chapters, ASM's efforts to reach out to younger audiences has resulted, so far, in a chapter at the Community College of Baltimore County, led by Nina Brown, and a club at Huntingtown High School in Calvert County, run by Jeff Cunningham.

### Anne Arundel

Meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Severna Park Branch Library, 45 West McKinsey Road. 7:30 p.m. Contact [AACHapASM@hotmail.com](mailto:AACHapASM@hotmail.com) or the chapter website <http://www.aachapasm.org/calendar.html>

### Central Maryland

For information contact [centralchapterasm@yahoo.com](mailto:centralchapterasm@yahoo.com) or Stephen Israel, 410-945-5514 or [stephenisrael2701@comcast.net](mailto:stephenisrael2701@comcast.net) Or on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter> <http://asmcentralchapter.weebly.com/>

### Charles County

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday (September-May) in the community room of the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Sarah Grady at [sarahgrady11@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgrady11@gmail.com) or 410-533-1390. Chapter website is [charlescoasm.org](http://charlescoasm.org) and its blog is [ccarchsoc.blogspot.com](http://ccarchsoc.blogspot.com)

**February 11:** Julie King, "In Search of Josiah Henson: Charles County's Famous Forgotten Son."

**March 10:** Carol Cowherd on the Pomonkey North Site.

**April 14:** Stephen Potter and Katherine Birmingham on the Accokeek Creek Site.

**May 12:** Jim Gibb on TBD.

### 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 [heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org) or 301-563-7530 or Don Housley at [donhou704@earthlink.net](mailto:donhou704@earthlink.net) or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: [asmmidpotomac@gmail.com](mailto:asmmidpotomac@gmail.com) Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768>

**February 18:** Bob Hines, chapter member, will speak on the archeology at the Riggs House in Brookeville.

**March 17:** Member Vivian Eicke will speak on her experience at Montpelier, the home of James Madison.



## Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at [digfrederick.com](http://digfrederick.com) or call 301-378-0212.

## Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month. 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](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net) Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

**February 17:** "Crownstone Farm and Global Information System Use at the Site" by Dan Coates, Buffy Conrad and Tamara Biegas. Harford Community College, Bel Air. NOTE DATE CHANGE

**March 9:** "Recent Lenape Archeology," by Jay Custer. Cecil County Historical Society, Elkton.

**April 15:** - Cresthull Memorial Lecture. "Underwater Archeology - Monterrey: Investigation in the Gulf of Mexico" by Susan Langley, State Underwater Archeologist. Harford Community College, Bel Air.

**June ??:** Annual ASNC Picnic Meeting. TBA

## St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at St. Francis Xavier Church in Newtown or at St. Mary's College. For information contact Chris Coogan at [Ccoogan@smcm.edu](mailto:Ccoogan@smcm.edu)

## Upper Patuxent

Meets the second Monday at 7 p.m. at 9944 Route 108 in Ellicott City. Labs are the second and fourth Saturdays. On Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358> or try [UPArchaeologygroup@yahoo.com](mailto:UPArchaeologygroup@yahoo.com) or <http://uparchaeologygroup.weebly.com/>

**February 8:** Karen Griffith on genealogical finds at the PFI.

**March 7:** Claude Bowen on ASM stuff.

**April 11:** Jim Gibb on some recent research.

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

**February 26:** Roy Brown on the building of an Eastern Woodland Wigwam last spring at Rocky Gap State Park, the wigwam was the focal point for summer youth-oriented programs on Native American culture.

**March 25:** Jonathan Burns of Juniata Collage on his work at forts built during the French and Indian War era.

**April 22:** Chapter member Joseph Weaver will give a presentation on Mesoamerican cultures.

**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 Jo Boodon, PO Box 1584, Ellicott City, MD 21043 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](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net)

**Submissions.** 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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