



ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Next up, the Spring Symposium

With the workshop behind us, ASM continues its annual swing into spring series of activities with the Spring Symposium at Crownsville Saturday, April 17.

In keeping with the practice of the last few years, the symposium will have a theme instead of being a collection of possibly related talks. The theme this year is "The Way It Was: Reflections on Maryland Archeology."

ASM Vice President Beth Ragan has arranged for a choice group of speakers to tell of their adventures in early Maryland archeology or to summarize the work of others. The speakers are Richard Slattery, Hugh Stabler, Howard McCord, Spencer and Nancy Geasey, Tyler Bastian and George Reynolds.

This year's two memorial lectures will feature, first, McCord giving the one in honor of Richard E. Stearns. McCord will offer an overview of archeology in the state before 1960, talking about the work of some well-known pioneers and the efforts of several public bodies.

The Iris McGillivray lecture, by Nancy Geasey, is entitled "We've Come a Long Way in 40 Years, but ..." The "but..." indicates there is much work still to be done.

Slattery, who entertained participants at last year's Winslow Site field school with his stories of fun along the Potomac, will give an encore performance, telling of his adventures 60 years ago. Stabler, a colleague of Slattery's, will tell of the Potomac Valley Archeological Club's travels and digs along the river, sometimes getting an assist from a 400-year-old map drawn by Captain John Smith.

Spencer Geasey's talk will be a personalized account of his 60 years digging and looking in Maryland, focusing on Frederick County but also including his later work for the State Highway Administration.

Bastian, Maryland's first state archeologist, will tell how the job came to be and what it was supposed to do, as well as some of his experiences in it.

Wrapping up the day's schedule, Reynolds, of northeastern Maryland, will relate "The History of *Both* Archeological Societies of Maryland." Did you know there was another one?

The program starts with registration at 9 a.m. The welcome speeches begin at 9:30, the talks 15 minutes later and the events should end around 4 p.m. As usual, the Crownsville cafeteria will be open for lunch or participants can scoot off to nearby restaurants.

The complete program can be found in this edition of the newsletter.

Inside: Much more information on the field school, including a list of speakers.

Upcoming events

April 14: Artifact Identification Day and Archeology Workshop at the American Indian Cultural Center in Waldorf. See note on Page 4.

April 17: ASM Spring Symposium, "The Way It Was: Reflections on Maryland Archeology." Crownsville.

April 23 - 25: 75th annual meeting of the Society of Pennsylvania Archeology, Clarion, Pa. 412-269-7959 or valko@mbakercorp.com

April 30, May 1: Annual Preservation and Revitalization Conference, Frederick. www.preservationmaryland.org or 410-685-2886, Ext. 302.

May 7 - 17: Annual ASM field school, at Swan Cove in Anne Arundel County. See insert.

May 21: William Kelso will speak on his recent discoveries at Jamestown. JPPM MAC lab. 410-586-8515.

June 5: ASM board meeting, Crownsville. 10 a.m. All welcome.

October 1 - 2: Catoclin Regional History Conference, Frederick Community College. 301-624-2803 or bpowell@frederick.edu

October 16: Annual ASM meeting, hosted by Mid-Potomac Chapter.

November 4 - 7: Joint ESAF - Ontario Archeological Society meeting, Midland, Ontario.

Volunteer opportunities

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

The Office of Archeology will conduct a survey of approximately 100 acres of the former Springfield Hospital Center for the Town of Sykesville, Carroll County. The work will involve pedestrian survey and systematic shovel test pit excavation. Most of the work will take place on weekends. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about archeological site identification theory and practice. The first two scheduled field days are April 4 and 18, replacing the field survey days at McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Areas in Montgomery County advertised in the Archeology Month Calendar of Events. Register with Charlie Hall at 410-514-7665 or by email at hall@dhcd.state.md.us

ASM field session collection: Volunteers are needed to work on up-grading collections associated with previous field sessions. Work will start with the Nolands Ferry collection. Nolands Ferry is a Late Woodland site excavated by ASM in 1978 under the leadership of Donald Peck. The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. For additional information contact Louise Akerson rakerson@comcast.net or Charlie Hall hall@dhcd.state.md.us.

Winslow Site lab work: The washing has to get done before anything else, so they can't promise there will be any cataloguing, but the more people who come in to wash the faster they will get to it. The archeology lab is in the basement of Hurst Hall at American University. For directions or questions, contact Kelsey Woodman at AUArchLab@hotmail.com

Montgomery County lab and field work. Call 301-948-5053 or contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org. CAT opportunity.

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

Mount Calvert lab work. Call 301-627-1286.

Looters getting more sophisticated

By Ryan Slattery

Condensed from The Washington Post, March 15, 2004

LAS VEGAS -- It happened by chance: An alert park ranger saw a pair of men loading things into their car in Death Valley National Park. The ranger questioned the men. One of them said he had "Indian rocks" in his car for his personal collection. And from there, the plot began to unravel.

What the ranger had stumbled upon was a ring of thieves who looted Native American artifacts, and authorities are calling it one of the largest operations of its kind.

During the course of a two-year investigation, authorities recovered more than 11,100 relics, including a human skull, lifted from public lands in California and Nevada, many from areas never charted by archeologists.

The five members of the ring were convicted of violating the Archeological Resources Protection Act and recently sentenced in U.S. District Court in Las Vegas. The ringleader, Bobbie Wilkie, 45, began serving a three-year sentence in federal prison last month. It was the longest jail term ever imposed for a first-time offender of the resources protection law.

"What we found was the most egregious example of looting, ever," said archeologist Tim Canaday, who worked on the investigation and said he remains shocked by the scope of the looting. "They collected things that, as an archeologist for 25 years, I had never seen. The only times I got to see some of those artifacts were in a museum."

The stolen artifacts included projectile points and arrowheads, yucca fiber sandals, pottery shards, clay figurines, basket fragments, hand-held grinding tools and pendants.

"These guys were sophisticated. They could look out at the lay of the land, as an archeologist would, and say, 'I think there's something over there,' " Canaday said. But they did not use the care of professional archeologists, sometimes damaging their search areas. "There were holes deep enough to hide a truck."

Canaday said it is likely a similar looting ring is working somewhere in the country right now. "Are there bigger ones going on out there? Unequivocally, yes. It's rampant nationwide. I'm always finding evidence that someone has gotten to a site before me."

Looting and poaching on federal lands is a widespread problem, said Andrea Keller, a National Parks Conservation Association spokeswoman. In most states, catching thieves or poachers is hit-or-miss. Often arrests come by a stroke of luck, a law enforcement officer with good timing. What is more frustrating to archeologists and historians is that there is no law to prevent digging on private lands, a practice that is increasing.

Larry Baldwin, a private investigator who works for a landowner whose property is adjacent to Arizona's Petrified Forest National Park, tries to keep the looters off the private land. He said he routinely bumps into thieves pocketing petrified wood or digging Anasazi graves searching for valuable pottery. Sometimes the looters are armed. Ancient funeral pots can fetch as much as \$60,000 on the black market.

"A lot of the old stewards of the land were ranching families," said John Madsen, a resource coordinator for the Arizona State Museum in Tucson. "But the economy forced them to sell. The big ranches folded, and now the commercial looting companies are getting contracts and excavating the sites with bulldozers and backhoes. A lot of these guys are doing this for a living."

Madsen said that entire pueblos, such as the 600-room Bailey Ruin, have been removed in recent months. "They know exactly where to go and what to look for," Madsen said. "We are losing so many important sites in northeastern Arizona. And after a good year of rain, grasses come up and you'd never know anything was ever there."

Upcoming workshops at JPPM

Basketry, May 15. Limit of 15 people. **Soapstone carving**, July 17. Limit of 10 people. **Pinch pot**, September 4. **Spinners and Weavers, natural dyes**, October 10. Limit of 25 people.

Reservations are required and there is a small fee for each. To register or for more information, call Kelly Mackall at 410-586-8502 or mackall@dhcd.state.md.us

ASM's Patricia Seitz Teacher of the Year Award

You can help ASM find a special teacher to nominate for this year's Patricia Seitz Teacher of the Year Award. Take a moment to look at the nomination form enclosed with this newsletter. Perhaps you know a teacher in your child's school or school district who is deserving of this award, or perhaps someone you know has a suggestion for a nominee. Chapters or individual ASM members may have contacts in their local school system able to suggest a nominee. The nominations are due by July 31, but there is no need to wait.

Cannon corrosion removed by baking

From the Durham (N.C.) Herald-Sun, March 10, 2004

BAILEY, N.C. (AP) -- An unusual restoration technique -- baking -- may be the answer to the expensive and time-consuming process of cleaning chunks of oxidized corrosion from artifacts hauled from the ocean.

This week, corrosion was chipped off a cannon that had cooked for two weeks in a 1,400-degree kiln at Dan Finch's pottery shop in Bailey.

Finch, who has a background in metallurgy, said when the iron is heated to a high temperature and turns cherry-red, the chlorides that corroded the cannon are driven out of the metal through a process called sublimation.

"Ohhhh yeah, that looks good," said Nathan Henry, conservator for the Office of State Archeology's underwater division, as the carbon-encrusted cannon was revealed to him for the first time since it went into Finch's custom-made kiln.

Henry said Finch and the spectators may not think the cannon looked good, but he told them they didn't see it when it was first hauled out of the sea.

"Underneath is a conserved cannon and that's what we want," Henry said.

Before loading the cannon onto a flatbed and taking it to a conservation lab at the coast, Henry tapped on the cannon with a claw hammer, brushed off the crust and revealed the shiny metal surface underneath.

"That's like new metal underneath," Finch said as he stroked the cannon.

The cannon had been lying on the bottom of Beaufort Inlet for centuries before it was brought to the surface in June 2002, along with six other cannons, by Intersal Inc., a private salvage company.

Henry said the restoration method of baking impurities out of metal could revolutionize preservation techniques. Baking is much faster than the traditional electrolysis technique and is less expensive and more effective.

After years of electrolysis, it is difficult to know when the artifact is ready, he said, plus five years of electrolysis would cost nearly \$10,000. The baking method cost about \$1,500 and took two weeks.

The cannon that Finch baked was chosen because it came from an unknown wreck and was in the worst condition of the other six cannons in the group. It was less valuable than a cannon from a known wreck, such as the pirate Blackbeard's flagship Queen Anne's Revenge, which is believed to lie just outside Beaufort Inlet.

Finch said this method would allow Third World countries to preserve their own artifacts and could even be used in the field by archeologists.

"The bottom line is it works," Henry said.

Archeology Workshop at the American Indian Cultural Center

On April 24, 2004, from 10 to 2, archeologists from the Maryland Historical Trust, ASM and elsewhere will be at the American Indian Cultural Center in Waldorf to identify artifacts and demonstrate flint knapping, soapstone bowl carving and atlatl throwing. Diagnostic artifacts from the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum will be on display, as well as an exhibit on the excavations at the village of the famed Nanticoke Emperors on Maryland's Eastern Shore. This event is free and open to the public. Contact the AICC at 301-372-1932 or info@piscatawayindians.org for details.

Book review: Misunderstanding each other

Powhatan Foreign Relations 1500-1722, edited by Helen C. Rountree, University of Virginia Press, 310 pages.

The Powhatans (plural – they were made up of over 30 allied groups) lived in eastern Virginia and were the people encountered by Captain John Smith and the first settlers of Jamestown in 1607. Their name evolved more or less by default. At first contact, Powhatan (Wahunsonacock), the man, was a "Paramount Chief" of these allied groups, living in the villages of the Pamunkey Indians. Thereafter, his Indian nation was termed "Powhatan" by the misinformed Europeans.

Of course, the world in which the Powhatans lived was quite different from that of the newest residents of Virginia. But beyond lifestyle, dress and technology, the Powhatans' form of governing and human interaction was the source of misunderstandings that was to cause the most conflict. Their chieftains relied more on "laissez faire" than structure and obedience. The new settlers called the Powhatan leaders King and they were accorded status as Indian royalty. The Powhatans, on the other hand, had no such illusions. Their head of state allowed each group to largely govern themselves. Raids on English settlements or, for that matter, other Indian villages were of no real concern to, or control by, the Paramount Chief. No formulated policy existed that compelled others to follow; rather, he waited, convinced, counseled or otherwise coerced his neighbors to join him in joint actions. Long before the Spanish landed in the mid-1500s or the English almost 50 years later, and continuing after they arrived, the Powhatans had considerable other "foreign relations" with which to deal.

The Powhatans were Algonquians, along with many along the mid-Atlantic area. Among the other players were the Siouan speakers to the west in the Piedmont areas of Virginia and North Carolina, and the Iroquoian speakers to the northwest (Nottaways, Massawomecks and others). Warring among these groups was a frequent occurrence, but this is not to suggest they could not get along when it was to their mutual benefit (not unlike Europe). Of striking note is the intensive travel and trade that extended hundreds, if not thousands of miles from their homeland. These were a mobile, affluent and sophisticated people, said to have had the most developed society in eastern America.

Assembled by Helen Rountree, the nine chapters unravel the complicated world of politics, politics and cultural clash as these people were thrust into a downward spiral by overwhelming pressure from European colonization. Clearly holding a respect for their diverse individual identities, Rountree shows how both Indian and European views of the other were largely misconstrued and misinterpreted at nearly every turn. Their basis of reference for most parts of their lives was very different. Theirs was less a case of hostility from disagreement than from gross misunderstanding. One chapter is on Maryland, written by Rountree herself and Wayne Clark.

This book and another published immediately after it ("Commoners, Tribute and Chiefs," by Stephen Potter) are the closest you will come to understanding life in America as the Europeans arrived at these shores.

-- Reviewed by Ed Hanna (Reprinted from the Western Maryland Chapter newsletter)

New books aren't the only ones worth reviewing. Do you know of a good older book that you think ASM members would like to hear about it? Check with the INK editor about sending in a review of it.



NOTICE: Don't say good-bye. If you haven't renewed already, you have until April 7 or you will be dropped from the rolls.

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

April 21: Jim Gibb on "Measuring Maryland."

May 19: Jim Gibb on "Cellaring Wine."

Sept 15: Carol Ebright on lithics.

Nov 17: Richard Hughes on Benjamin Banneker.

Central

Phone Stephen Israel at 410- 945-5514 or ssisrael@abs.net, for information.

Mid-Potomac

Contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org, or call them at 301-948-5053.

Mid Shore

The Mid Shore Group meets at 7:30 on the fourth Friday of the month at the SunTrust Bank on Goldsboro Street in Easton, from January through September. However, the April meeting is held at the Talbot County Historical Society Auditorium. Contact Bill Cep at 410-822-5027 or email ccep@crosslink.net

Monocacy

The Monocacy chapter meets the Wednesday closest to the 15th of each month at the Walkersville Middle School. Contact Joy Hurst at 301-663-6706 or email hurst_joy@hotmail.com. Website: www.digfrederick.org

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month. Contact Dan Coates at dancoates@comcast.net

April 8: Chapter workshop at Harford Glen covering Garrett Island ceramics study (Bill McIntyre and Annetta Schott), review of recent book about clay pipe manufacturing (author Paul Jung) and industrial and labor sites in northeast Maryland (Bob Chidester).

May 23: Annual picnic. Broad Creek.

Southern

Meetings the second Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the MAC Lab meeting room. Call 410-586-8584 or katesilas@chesapeake.net for information.

April 16: Elizabeth Ragan, "Celtic: More Than Just a Basketball Team."

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of each month at 7:30 at Mt. Ida, near the court house in Ellicott City. Most are preceded by dinner at 6 at the Tiber River Café in Ellicott City. Contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or maurice_preston@hcpss.org

April 12: "Native American Tools and Technology: The Americas to Howard County," Lee Preston.

May 10: Erin Piechowiak on skeletons found in Annapolis.

Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 pm in the LaVale Library, unless noted. Contact Ed Hanna, 301-777-1380. Chapter email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: www.geocities.com/wmdasm

April 23: "Run of the Mill: History and Archeology of Maryland Mills," by Jim Gibb.

May 28: Barton Site briefing, by Bob Wall.

(clip clip clip)

ASM SALES ITEMS:

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

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