

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

Dennis Curry gets 2017 Marye Award

Both Dennis Curry and the audience got a surprise at this year's ASM Annual Meeting October 21.

Curry's was to hear that he had been awarded the Society's highest honor, the William B. Marye Award for outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology. The audience's was to hear that he will be leaving his job as state archeologist with the Maryland Historical Trust at the end of October.

A Teacher of the Year Award also was made, to Jeff Cunningham of Huntingtown High School, and Dave Peters of the Northern Chesapeake Chapter became the latest person to complete ASM's Certified Archeological Technician program.



Dennis Curry out in the field

Race Against Time: Maryland Archaeology and the Quest to Recover History," can now be seen on YouTube, youtu.be/TNV2mOJiJg4

Predicted sea-level change played a role in this year's ASM field session. Part of the 17th Century town of Calverton in Calvert County already has disappeared beneath St. Leonard's creek. Principle Investigator Kirsti Uunila was unable to be present and her paper on this spring's dig was read by MHT archeologist Charlie Hall.

Recovery was the subject of Aaron Levinthal's talk about a shipwreck discovered when the State Highway Administration was repairing a bridge over the Nanticoke River on the Eastern Shore. An MPT video followed the recent search for traces of the War of 1812 ship near Jug Bay. Researchers think they may have found Admiral Joshua Barney's flagship. But why are there no traces of the rest of the small fleet, burned at the same time to prevent them falling into British hands? One idea is that the ships are now buried under ground after the river changed its course.

Lynne Bulhack of the Mid-Potomac chapter told of her work with a small nonprofit in her area. It has created a Native American Heritage Trail Guide to assist visitors to key points in the Montgomery-Frederick counties area.

More than 50 people showed up at Howard Community College for the event. They also heard presentations on a variety of archeology-related topics. Keynote speaker Stephen McBride came from Kentucky to tell about the search for remains of Fort Ashby, a short-lived structure George Washington had built in nearby West Virginia during the French and Indian War.

In the day's first speech, Anastasia Poulus of the Anne Arundel County archeology office, gave a frightening picture of what climate change is doing to, and will do to, her county. Just from sea-level change alone, the potential harm to archeology will be very significant. A new video she showed, "A

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Upcoming events

November 10-12: Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology conference, Portsmouth, N.H.

http://cneha.org/conference_registration.htm

Volunteer opportunities

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

ASM Tuesday Volunteer Lab: The lab in Crownsville is temporarily closed.

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 and Laura Cripps lcripps@howardcc.edu under the auspices of the Smithsonian. 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

Montgomery County is accepting applications from for lab and field work volunteers. Contact Heather Bouslag at 301 563 7530 or Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org

The Anne Arundel County Archaeology Program and the Lost Towns Project welcome volunteers in both field and lab at numerous county sites. Weekdays only. Email 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 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.

CAT corner:

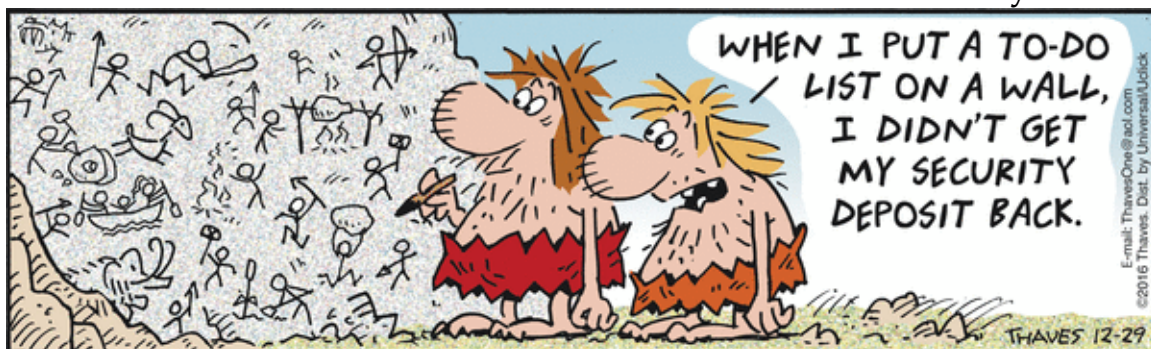
For the latest CAT information see the ASM website or contact Belinda Urquiza at burquiza@comcast.net

MHT library repairs finished, reopens for business

The Maryland Historical Trust Library has reopened after being closed between September 11 and October 4 for cleaning and repairs. For information or to schedule an appointment, contact Karen Kennedy at karen.kennedy@maryland.gov or 410 697-9550.

Frank and Ernest

by Thaves





Teacher of Year Jeff Cunningham



Marye Award Winner Dennis Curry

Photos by John Fiveash

Dennis Curry gets 2017 Marye Award

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A Jim Crow-era school in Anne Arundel County has undergone different uses since Integration. Sarah Grady, a graduate student at the University of Maryland, College Park, highlighted the building's various uses and the efforts to preserve it.

Curry was honored for "four decades of outstanding contributions to ASM and Maryland archeology, the last four as the state's chief archeologist at the Maryland Historical Trust.

He is best known to ASM member for his 40 years of work on its field schools. He was the fellow in shorts, no matter what the weather was. He also was editor of ASM's journal, *Maryland Archeology*, for 25 years, from 1989 until 2014, when his new duties at the Trust forced him to resign.

He also was involved in officer and editing positions with the Middle Atlantic Archeological Conference, the Eastern States Archeological Federation and the Council for Maryland Archeology. Among his publications is "Feast of the Dead," a study of estuaries.

The Teacher-of-the-Year Award was given after an absence of several years. The recipient, Jeff Cunningham, is the social studies core leader at Huntingtown High School in Calvert County and was instrumental in getting an archeology/anthropology elective into the county's school curriculum.

He also is the faculty adviser to ASM's only high school branch. In 2014 his "historical investigations" class won a Preservation Maryland Award for its work with the Baltimore Federal Reserve and the historic Otterbein Church.

His family came along to see him get the award.

During the business portion of the meeting, the attendees approved changes to ASM's by-laws changing the fiscal year to correspond to the calendar year.

Curry retiring as state's chief archeologist

Dennis Curry, Chief Archeologist at the Maryland Historical Trust since 2013, retired on October 31.

Elizabeth Hughes, Director and State Historic Preservation Officer at the Trust, hailed Curry's "distinguished 40-year career in archeology with the State of Maryland" and said, "The Trust is committed to filling this position and is now in the process of seeking the approvals that are required in order to move forward with recruitment."

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With a BA and MA from Catholic University, Curry joined the archeology division of the Maryland Geological Survey and when the archeology functions were combined with those of the MHT in 1990, he was transferred to that unit with the title of senior archeologist.

Curry is best known to ASM member for his 40 years of work on its field schools. He was the fellow in shorts, no matter the weather or underbrush. He also was editor the ASM's journal, *Maryland Archeology*, for 25 years, from 1989 until 2014, when his new duties at the Trust forced him to resign that post.

In addition, he was involved in officer and editing positions with the Middle Atlantic Archeological Conference, the Eastern States Archeological Federation and the Council for Maryland Archeology. Among his publications is "Feast of the Dead," a study of estuaries in Maryland.

ASM President Don Housley said, "This year's William B. Marye Award presentation was exceptionally special and well-timed to coincide with Dennis' announcement that he was retiring. What a fitting what for ASM to say thank you to Dennis for his many contributions to Maryland archeology and to ASM as its highly regarded Maryland Archeology editor, the calming influence during field sessions and all around kind and decent person to work with."

Another ASM member said, "Dennis was always the one to turn to at field school when a question came up or an artifact surfaced that no one could identify. And I can't think of one instance when he got mad when things went wrong or stupidity reared up."

Hurricane Irma reveals mystery canoe

By Lisa J. Huriash

Condensed from the Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel, October 13, 2017

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Researchers may be closer to figuring out the origin of an old canoe that surfaced after Hurricane Irma.

Using radiocarbon dating, archeologists determined that the wood used to create the vessel may date to the 1600s.

"A find like this is always exciting, especially when it represents something completely unlike the types of canoes previously discovered," said Paul N. Backhouse, director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation.

A photographer scouting for damage after Irma made the discovery about 35 miles east of Orlando, near the Kennedy Space Center. State officials loaded it onto a truck and took it to Tallahassee, where officials are beginning a process to make sure the canoe doesn't deteriorate further.

Officials said radiocarbon dating showed there is a 50 percent chance that the canoe's wood dates to the 1600s. The paint and wire nails found on it may reveal that the canoe itself wasn't built until the 1800s or 1900s. There's a smaller chance the canoe dates to between 1760 and 1818.

The canoe certainly has caught the attention of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Backhouse said. "The dating, construction and other details of the canoe are unusual and intriguing," he said.

"Until we do a more-thorough analysis of the construction techniques and consult with the Seminole tribe and other tribes, we can't be sure at this time if the canoe was associated with any particular tribe," said Sarah Revell, a spokeswoman for the Florida Department of State.

Revell said the canoe is destined for a museum eventually.

"It could take a year or longer to complete the preservation process," she said.

Although such canoes are rare, a number of them have been found across the state through the decades. "Florida has the highest concentration of dugout canoes in the world," Revell said. "We have more than 400 documented dugout canoes in our state. Each canoe is important, in that it adds to our database and helps fill out the picture of how people used these canoes over thousands of years."

Are Jamestown bones de la Warr's?

By Michael E. Ruane

Condensed from the Washington Post, October 27, 1017

JAMESTOWN, Va. — The ancient thigh bone was that of a robust man, a chap in his 40s, with wear and tear in his joints and a hip socket that showed he had been a horseman and a man of status.

Could these be the remains of the long-lost lord — the savior of the English colony here, the aristocrat who died at sea and whose body was likely carried to Virginia in a cask of wine?

Was this Thomas West, better known as Lord De La Warr, whose name is Americanized to Delaware?

"I'm not sure," said Kari Bruwelheide, a Smithsonian Institution anthropologist.

But archeologists at the Jamestown Rediscovery project and anthropologists from the Smithsonian are embarked on an effort to see if they can find the famous lord. The project is seeking to locate Jamestown notables who were buried inside the small churches that occupied the site over four centuries.

John Rolfe, who married Pocahontas, may be buried there. So, too, George Yeardley, who served as an early governor of Colonial Virginia, said William M. Kelso, chief archeologist of Jamestown Rediscovery.

Experts also are seeking to better understand the site where the first representative assembly in the Western Hemisphere met on July 30, 1619. The tasks are daunting.

Over the years, numerous "high-status" Jamestown figures were buried within the church, according to Kelso and James Horn, president of Jamestown Rediscovery. But there is little record of who was buried where and when, and the archeologists are trying to sort through the jumble of what they are finding.

"There may be three or four layers of burials," Horn said.

The job is further complicated by archeology conducted at the site in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The earlier archeologists left a crude time capsule — a metal box with what appeared to be a letter inside. The now-rusted box was found Tuesday, but the paper had deteriorated and was unreadable.

And those archeologists were not experts. They unearthed some remains and reburied them haphazardly.

"There are so many graves cutting through graves, cutting through graves, cutting through graves," Kelso said. "To sort it out archeologically is much more complicated than any of us" realized.

The work began months ago and could extend into next summer.

The theory is that Lord De La Warr was the first person buried in what was then a brand-new church. So his remains could be at the very bottom of the grave layers, Kelso said.

The archeologists will look for any remnants or outline of a specially shaped "anthropoid" coffin that would have been accorded an aristocrat. Other such coffins have been found at Jamestown.

And scientific tests can be conducted on the bones. Relatives of De La Warr have been found at Jamestown. The Smithsonian has been trying to glean DNA from their bones. If successful, that DNA could be compared with DNA taken from the lord's bones.

Jamestown has given up secrets in the past. In the mid 1990s, Kelso found the outline of the settlers' original fort, which was thought to have been consumed by the James River years before.

Two years ago, Jamestown Rediscovery and the Smithsonian announced the discovery of four graves inside the fort and the likely identities of the VIP occupants.

De La Warr died at sea in June, 1618. His body was probably preserved in a barrel of wine or spirits, Kelso said, as he was too important to be buried at sea. The ship reached Virginia in August and De La Warr was almost certainly buried inside the confines of the Jamestown church that had just been finished on the site.

"He would go in a church chancel," Kelso said in a recent interview. "And I don't think there's much of a competition existing in Virginia, other than this Jamestown church, that would be a likely place where he would be buried."

"This is a big man," Smithsonian anthropologist Douglas Owsley said as he examined the bones earlier this month. "We are not used to seeing Jamestown colonists that are the size of this guy. ... Not that he's so tall. He's just sturdy."

He might have had a better diet than others, or a higher status, Bruwelheide said.

"These are beautiful bones, in terms of preservation," Owsley said, far better than most recovered at Jamestown, and the kind from which DNA might be extracted.

History-rich middens are going, going ...

By Murry Carpenter

Condensed from the New York Times, October 20, 2017

DAMARISCOTTA, Me. — Alice Kelley stood on the bank of a tidal river, next to a grassy bluff dotted with apple trees. This is not just a scenic spot: Hidden beneath the grass is a massive pile of oyster shells left by Native Americans. And hidden among those shells are rich, detailed stories thousands of years old.

"We know that there are over 2,000 shell heaps on the coast of Maine," said Kelley, an associate research professor at the University of Maine Climate Change Institute. "In virtually every case here in southern Maine, they are disappearing or they are gone."

While many of New England's Native American artifacts have decomposed in acidic soils, those in middens are often well preserved, as the calcium carbonate in the shells creates more alkaline conditions. The middens hold clues not only to ancient cultural practices, but also to historic environmental and climatic conditions.

Most have never been studied. Some have been raided by looters. And many are eroding as sea levels rise.

The middens around Damariscotta are the largest examples north of South Carolina, said Arthur Spiess, senior archeologist with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

From about 2,200 to 800 years ago, Native Americans visited this site in late winter and spring. The inhabitants discarded the shells in heaps that grew year after year, century after century.

In later centuries, European settlers viewed the middens as a resource. One company burned the oyster shells for lime, another smashed them for chicken feed. As the shells were unearthed, however, archeologists found ceramics, bones and stone tools and the remains of animals on which the tribes feasted.

This and other middens have revealed much of what is known about Native Americans in Maine over the past 4,000 years. The best-studied site, Turner Farm, on North Haven Island in Penobscot Bay, has yielded artifacts more than 5,000 years old.

The inhabitants ate shellfish, mostly soft-shell clams. But they also had a taste for deer, bear, moose, seal and porpoise; cod, sturgeon and swordfish, and even extinct species like sea mink and the flightless great auk.

Donald Soctomah, the historic preservation officer for the two Passamaquoddy tribes in eastern Maine, said middens tell important stories. "To the Passamaquoddy, the shell middens are a link to the past, and give us an idea of how life was at a certain time and what people consumed," Soctomah said in a phone interview. "To us, any information about our past is very important, because we didn't have a written record."

In an effort to more rapidly assess middens, Kelley has developed protocols to survey them using ground-penetrating radar. She thinks of the surveys as a sort of triage, a way of determining which sites are at greatest risk of erosion and which are best to study. She has surveyed six middens so far.

"If you want to know what was in the western Gulf of Maine 3,000 years ago, this is how you're going to figure that out," Kelley said.

The radar not only shows the extent and thickness of the middens, but also reveals the detailed layering, including what may have been floors in historic settlements.

Miller said in addition to the cultural information buried in the middens, the shells are also a record of ancient climate. Researchers can analyze them to determine historic water temperatures and salinity.

Still, she said, the middens do not get much attention. "A lot of people just don't know these things exist."

During the radar surveys, Kelley's team had some unpleasant surprises. In one case, they arranged permission to survey a southern Maine midden that had been recorded 49 years ago. When the crew arrived with their equipment, they found it had vanished into the sea.

At a recent conference, Tom Dawson and Joanna Hambly of the University of St. Andrews described the Shorewatch program, which enlists citizens to monitor sites in Scotland threatened by coastal erosion.

Florida has developed a similar network, called Heritage Monitoring Scouts. Kelley hopes to develop such a program in Maine.

Soctomah said he keeps an eye on middens in eastern Maine. "We try to do a walk-by after a bad storm, when you are going to see a site getting more damage," he said. "It's bad because they are disappearing so fast, and the knowledge that is within those middens will be washed out to sea."

No tricks, all treat with ASM membership: Renew

You don't need a clock to let you know it is time to renew your ASM membership for another year. While the kids are busy ruining their teeth on Halloween candy, fill out the form with this newsletter and pop it and your check into the mail. If you check the small print (not so small, actually) you'll see that dues haven't risen. Not only can you help to preserve our historical heritage but you can do so at bargain rates.

Imagery locates Iraqi town lost for 2,000 years

By Niamh McIntyre

Condensed from *The Independent*, September 25, 2017

Archeologists in Iraq have discovered a city which was lost for more than 2,000 years with the help of drone photography and declassified intelligence images.

Qalatga Darband, which is believed to have been founded in 331 BC by Alexander the Great, was discovered by a team of Iraqi and British archeologists led by experts from the British Museum.

John MacGinnis, who is leading the team on the ground, said, "We think it would have been a bustling city on a road from Iraq to Iran. You can imagine people supplying wine to soldiers passing through."

The site initially came to the attention of archeologists following the release of declassified CIA satellite photos from the 1960s, which appeared to show the outline of ruins. MacGinnis and his colleagues then used drones to discover the outlines of buildings which have lain beneath the ground for centuries.

Greek coins, and statues of Greco-Roman deities, have also been found at the site in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Staff from the British Museum have been training Iraqi heritage experts to help archeologists protect sites of historical significance in areas of the Middle East which have been severely impacted by conflict.

Iraqi heritage services have been severely impacted by the chaos that followed the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

ISIS has destroyed a number of historical sites for propaganda purposes, including large parts of the ancient Assyrian City of Niveneh and the Temple of Baalshamin in Palmyra. In June, militants destroyed the Great Al-Nuri Mosque in Mosul, where three years ago the group's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, declared himself the leader of a new Islamic caliphate.

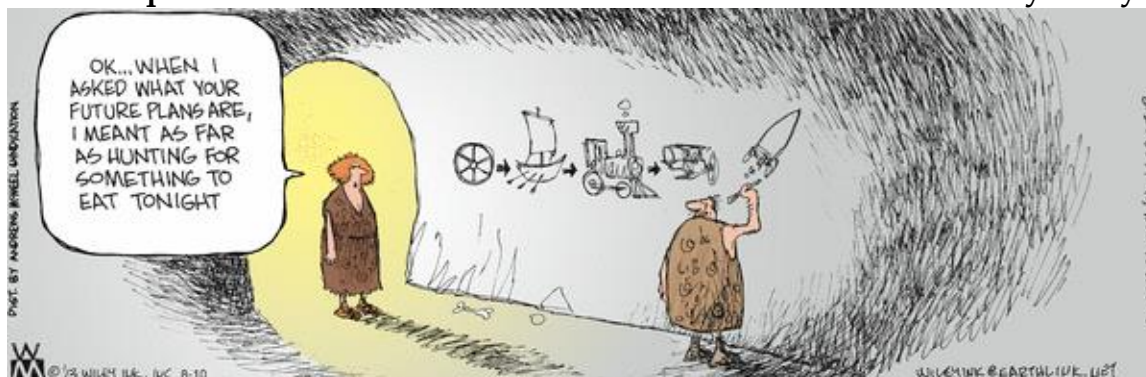
Most-recent ESAF journal available to borrow

ASM has received two extra copies of the most recent Eastern States Archaeological Federation (ESAF) Journal, Volume 45, 2017, containing seven articles on New England and Northern Mid-Atlantic Region Archaeology. Visit the ESAF website for the table of contents.

ASM members can contact Stephen Israel, its ESAF representative, at stephenisrael2701@comcast.net, if they would like to borrow the journal for a month or two at a time.

Non sequitur

by Wiley



Chapter notes

In addition to the listed chapters, ASM has chapters at Hood College and the Community College of Baltimore County and a club at Huntingtown High School in Calvert County, run by Jeff Cunningham; visit its website, <http://hhsarchaeology.weebly.com/>

Anne Arundel

For information, contact Jim Gibb at JamesGGibb@verizon.net

Central Chapter

For information contact centralchapterasm@yahoo.com or stephenisrael2701@comcast.net or 410-945-5514. Or on Facebook, www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter or <http://asmcentralchapter.weebly.com>

Friday, November 17: Bill McIntyre, a leader of the Northern Chesapeake Chapter and a former teacher, will talk about archeology in high school, "Mr. Mac's Smorgasbord: How I Got My Students to Eat Their Peas." At the Natural History Society of Maryland, 6908 Belair Road, Baltimore.

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 Carol Cowherd at ccasm2010@gmail.com. Chapter website is charlescoasm.org and its blog is ccarchsoc.blogspot.com

November 9: Jacob Moschler. 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 Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768

November 16: Mark Michael Ludlow, member of the City of Alexandria Archaeology Commission will discuss "Advanced Metal Detecting for the Archeologist."

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at digfrederick.com or call 301-378-0212. The chapter does not meet in July or August.

November 8: Guy R. Neal of "Primal Knowledge" will display and explain the natural materials that were used for cordage, and manufacturing methods that were commonly enlisted to create this essential survival tool.

Northern Chesapeake

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

November 8: Local Petroglyphs with Global Interpretations, by Dan Coates and Dave Peters. Harford Community College, Bel Air.

Friday, December 8: Harford Glen: Past, Present and Future. ASNC Board Members. Dinner Meeting. I.O.O.F. Hall, Aberdeen.

January 10, 2018: Aaron Levinthal of the SHA will talk about the Bush Tavern Site. Havre de Grace City Hall.

February 4: Dan Coates on "Jasper Run or Run for Jasper."

March 14: Jim Kotersky and Dan Coates on the Church Lane Pottery Site.

April 13: "At the Water's Edge: Our Past on the Brink," by Darrin Lowery.

Sunday, May 20: Annual picnic at the Iron Hill Museum and Jasper Site.

St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month (with a few exceptions) at 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph D. Carter State Office Building in the Russell Conference Room, 23110 Leonard Hall Drive, Leonardtown. For information contact Chris Coogan at Ccoogan@smcm.edu

November 20: - TBD

December 15: Tour at Jefferson Patterson Park @ 1:00 p.m.

January 17: Julie King

February 21: Steve Lenik (tentatively)

March 19: - TBD

April 16: Archaeology Month (student speakers at St. Mary's College of Maryland)

May 21: - TBD

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, www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358 or <http://uparchaeologygroup.weebly.com> or try uparchaeologygroup@gmail.com

November 13: New UPAG President Kelly Palich will tell about an analysis of a mid-18th Century tenant house/trash pit in Charles County.

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

November 18: A field trip to tour the newly renovated Fort Bedford Museum, guided by curator Susan Trussell.

December: No meeting due to holidays

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 Rachael Holmes at 875 Boyd Street, Floor 3, Baltimore, MD 21201 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

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