

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

Archeology Workshop coming this month

The annual Workshop in Archeology returns to Crownsville this year, with the session taking place Saturday, March 26 beginning at 9:30 with opening remarks. The talks begin right afterward. Altogether there will be eight talks divided into four time slots.

The second time slot will be devoted to a keynote address by Henry Miller, "Reflections on Half a Century of Archeology at St. Mary's City." Historic archeology in Maryland began about 100 years ago in St. Mary's City. Miller, a dynamic speaker, will look at some of the ways the archeology there has altered our understanding of what life was like in the state's founding colony and how work there has influenced the way historic archeology is practiced in the mid-Atlantic.

Before Miller mounts the podium, attendees will have to pick between two opening sessions. In one, John Bedell from the Louis Berger Group will tell about the search for the Shawnee's King Opessa Town in Western Maryland. Actually there were two King Opessa Towns - one is now part of the prolific Barton Site, the other is at Oldtown. It was the Oldtown site that the researchers were after.

The other 9:45 talk has contract archeologist Elizabeth Comer and associates looking into the effort to uncover the lives of slaves and free workers at the Catoctin Furnace in Frederick County. Their tools included analyses of skeletal remains, LiDAR, X-ray fluorescence (XRF), historical documents, vernacular architecture, genealogical research and geophysical data.

After lunch two CAT sessions will be held back to back. The first hour of the prehistoric overview will be presented by Charlie Hall of the Maryland Historical Trust, the second by Bob Wall of Towson University. CAT candidates have preference for seating, but others will be welcomed on a space-available basis. CAT candidates, to get credit for the unit, must attend both sessions.

The other talk offered immediately after lunch will feature Sara Rivers-Cofield of the MAC Lab. Using the *Outlander* TV series as a starting point for examining the accuracy of costuming and props in period dramas, she will see how they compare with artifacts that have been unearthed.

Besides the second CAT session, there are two other options for the final time period. In the first floor conference room state underwater archeologist Susan Langley will examine the history and role of the new National Marine Sanctuary at Mallows Bay on the Potomac River, home to a ghost fleet of nearly 100 World War One era wooden steamboats, many of which are visible when the tide goes out.

In the basement, the focus will be on how new technologies can be used to make site recording simpler than it has been. Kirsti Uunila will look into mobile GIS and GPS applications and how Calvert County is using them and Scott Strickland will detail more time-efficient methods of surface surveys now being used in St. Mary's County.

NOTE: The building cafeteria will not be open. A list of area restaurants will be available, but they are a bit distant. Attendees are encouraged to brown bag it and use the lunch time for a social hour.

Admission is \$5 for ASM members and students, \$7 for others. The complete program is with this newsletter.

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 for information. Also contact if you wish to volunteer to help.

May 23-7: Flintknapping workshop. Center for American Archeology, Kampsville, Ill. Fee. Limited enrollment. www.caa-archeology.org

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. Anyone interested (especially CAT candidates) is welcome. Contact Louis Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall at 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 jamesgibb@verizon.net and Laura Cripps 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 jamesgibb@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 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

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 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: A prehistoric overview is set the the Archeology Workshop March 26.

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

ASM news:

The Spring Symposium isn't far away either

Planning is well underway for the Spring Symposium, to be held April 9. Among the speakers will be Becca Peixotto talking about the new hominoid discovery in South Africa, Jay Custer on some Woodland sites, Michael Stewart on the Abbott Farm site, Rebecca Webster on 17th Century beads and Cheryl Claassen on Archaic rituals. There also will be a silent auction (see below). More details in next month's newsletter.

The secret of a good silent auction is you

Judging by the amount of people they attract ASM's silent auctions are popular. It is fun to wander around the tables and find things we'd like to get - and then trying to make sure that no one outbids us.

But before the bidding starts there have to be objects to put on display. Many objects are archeology related in some way, but they don't have to be. They just have to be items that someone will find interesting and contribute to ASM's analysis fund by buying it.

Past non-archeology donations have included books, crafts, ceramics, theater tickets. Something old, something new. Find a local merchant who is willing to donate a couple of meals or a movie theater or stage company willing to do the same. In addition to individual donations, chapters can gather and contribute gift baskets.

Next month the newsletter will publish a list of what has been donated so far. Have your contribution on it to whet members' appetites.

Contact Elaine Hall at SilentAuction@marylandarcheology.org to let her know what you'd like to offer and she will tell you how to get it to her, perhaps handing it off at the Workshop in Archeology March 26 at the Maryland Historical Trust headquarters in Crownsville.

The auction will take place two weeks later at the Spring Symposium, also in Crownsville.

Help make the silent auction a success by contributing something you think another member will like or by finding a vendor to offer a service. Forms are with this newsletter.

Becca talks to Huntingtown High School chapter

In early December, the Huntingtown High School (Calvert County) ASM Student Chapter (with the support of the state ASM) sponsored an assembly at the school at which Becca Peixotto gave a fascinating presentation about the recent excavations at Rising Star Cave in South Africa, the discovery of a new hominid species; *Homo naledi*, and her role in the discoveries.

Ms. Peixotto is a doctoral candidate in Anthropology at American University, a member of ASM, and is well known to ASM for her work at Biggs Ford over the past three seasons. She is now known internationally from her appearances on National Geographic and NOVA specials on television and her many interviews on American and foreign radio, including the Diane Rehm Show on National Public Radio.

Ms. Peixotto's discussion included video, lecture, and three dimensional models made from 3-d printers of key fossils recovered during the excavations. The auditorium in which the event was held was filled to near capacity with over 300 students and faculty attending. In addition, the entire staff (minus one) of the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory attended the event. At the conclusion of the talk, there was a long line both to meet Becca and to see the models of the fossil bones.

After the event, Becca, ASM President Claude Bowen, faculty, and former members of the chapter now in college were invited to a luncheon with the current chapter officers, Rick Weber, the principal of Huntingtown HS, and Jeff Cunningham, the faculty advisor for the chapter.

C.B.



Huddling and learning on a lower deck of the U.S.S. Constellation in Baltimore Harbor /Photo by Sarah Grady

Maritime archeology sessions draw dozens

By Susan Langley

State Underwater Archeologist

Ahoy! Be it known that between January 31 and February 20 ASM members had the opportunity to attend one of two half-day classes providing an introduction to ship architecture and one of two three-hour tours of the U.S.S. *Constellation* in Baltimore's Inner Harbor for the chance for a hands-on application of the classroom information.

The course was offered to gauge interest among CAT members for a maritime focus within that program. The classes, held at MHT's offices, included copious handouts, videos and a PowerPoint lecture and were attended by 27 ASM members joined by 12 participants from the Institute for Maritime Archaeology, the replica vessel *Kalmar Nyckel*, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Battle of the Atlantic Research and Expedition Group and a student from Elizabethtown College; other participants from Delaware are included in ASM numbers.

The first tour of the sloop-of-war *Constellation* took place on what was undoubtedly the coldest day of the year and of the 25 participants, 14 were students St. Mary's College of Maryland (on a mandatory field trip) and five were students of the Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society classes that are running concurrently.

The second tour, under much improved weather conditions, saw 11 participants come aboard the last all-sail vessel built by the Navy.

Now firm in the knowledge that ribs are found only on grills and frames within ships, participants can watch *Master and Commander* or *Pirates of the Caribbean* again, but with an eye to the ships and not the actors.

The ASM leaders will make use of the interest shown and decide soon how best to fit a maritime aspect into the CAT program.

Ready for some archeology crowdsourcing?

Condensed from NPR, February 18, 2016

Sarah Parcak is a space archeologist. She uses satellite imagery to track looted ancient burial sites and find pyramids hidden under Egyptian cities. Now, she has bigger plans: to launch a worldwide campaign to make all of us space archeologists.

She will be doing it through a digital platform called *Global Xplorer*, which will utilize crowdsourcing and satellite images to discover and protect unknown archeological sites around the world. Parcak is the 2016 TED Prize winner — and she plans to launch the platform with the \$1 million award that comes with the prize.

Parcak explains to NPR's Ari Shapiro how she plans to "game-ify" archeological research and how she is enlisting everyone's help to pull it off.

"This is going to be a super high tech version of Google Earth," she says. "My team and I are going to process lots of satellite imagery and they'll be put on this platform."

Users will be given a small card from a deck that shows real, processed satellite imagery of a plot of land not more than 20 by 20 or 30 by 30 meters in size. There will be clues and keys by the side of the picture to help them identify whether they're seeing a known site, like a pyramid, or a new site.

But the satellite images can be blurry and it can be hard to distinguish patterns in them, even after the images are processed. To circumvent this problem, Parcak says users will actually be given two images: One that's unprocessed, one that's been enhanced. She wants users to compare the two pictures.

"When you look at images that are enhanced, the details pop much more," she says.

Parcak and her team will also help users identify the type of site or building in the images by allowing them to compare what they see with known examples of archeological sites. For example, users can see pictures of what excavated Egyptian houses look like from different periods of time, so they can put tags on the pictures with the descriptions.

"As the crowd populates these images with their tags, after 10, 20 or 50 users tell us that something is there, we'll know to be able to check, to confirm, one way or another," Parcak says.

While everyone might not be an expert in archeology or history, Parcak hopes that this method will help researchers identify more sites around the world, even in places where they never thought to look. Crowdsourcing, she says, will give them "lots of fresh pairs of eyes."

"The biggest problem we have when looking at satellite imagery is not the processing," she says. "The hardest part is actually eye fatigue. ... Imagine hours and hours looking at satellite imagery. We miss things."

Once enough users identify a site, Parcak and her team will look at the data, pick specific examples and share them with academic archeologists who might go out and excavate the sites.

Here comes the best part: The crowd will be able to go along with them through applications like Periscope, Google Plus, Skype and Instagram.

There is one caveat to the plan, however: GPS information can be extremely sensitive and fall in the wrong hands. Parcak has spoken out against groups like ISIS raising money by looting archeological sites, and this app may provide looters a map to find treasure. Parcak says these maps won't reveal GPS locations and will mask the data.

Parcak hopes to launch the application later this summer or by early fall.

"The idea is people can use this on their smartphones during their coffee break," she says. "We'll have a desktop version so people can use it in classrooms."

Her ultimate goal is to launch it globally, with the app hosting different languages.

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 or the chapter website <http://www.aachapasm.org/calendar.html>

Central Maryland

For information contact centralchapterasm@yahoo.com or Stephen Israel, 410-945-5514 or 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 or 410-533-1390. Chapter website is charlescoasm.org and its blog is ccarchsoc.blogspot.com

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 or 301-563-7530 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768>

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

April 21: Rico Newman, member of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe and commissioner, Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, will speak on the Native American struggles for tribal recognition in Maryland. **Location change.** This meeting will be at Brookside Nature Center, 1400 Glenallen Ave., Wheaton.

May 19: Nate Patch, of the National Archives in College Park, will discuss research techniques that can be used prior to doing archeology on a site.

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 or call 301-378-0212.

March 9: Stephen Israel will report on the work that he and Wayne Clark did at The Kirby Farm Site in Carroll County, a Middle and Late Woodland riverine hunting quarter.

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

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 Cicoogan@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 or <http://uparchaeologygroup.weebly.com/>

March 14: Claude Bowen on ASM stuff. NOTE DATE CORRECTION.

April 11: Barbara Israel will talk about Indian mounds in Ohio.

May 9: 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 Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

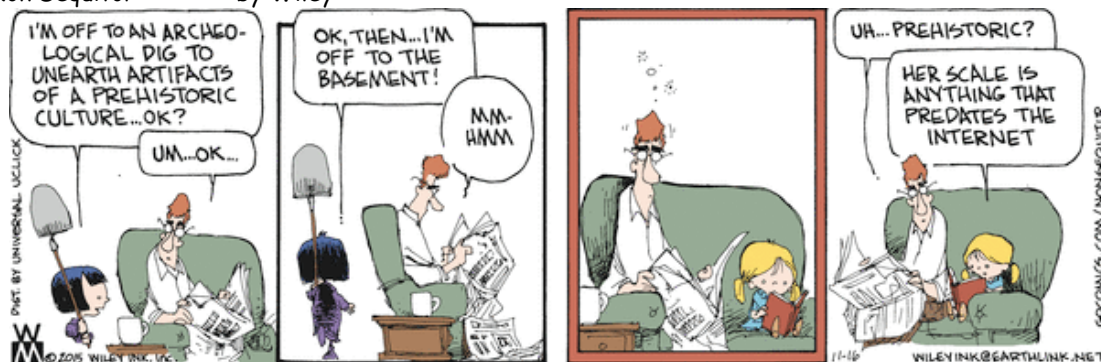
March 25: Jonathan Burns of Juniata College on his work at forts built during the French and Indian War era.

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

May: No meeting.

June 24: 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.

Non Sequitor by Wiley



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

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