



# ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

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

## Fall meeting to feature Civil War theme

The highlight of this year's Fall Meeting will be a symposium on the Civil War. Arranged by the Mid-Potomac Chapter, the meeting takes place Saturday, November 13 in Montgomery County, at the Brookside Gardens Visitor's Center in the Wheaton Regional Park.

Registration begins at 8 a.m., with refreshments and a Civil War artillery demonstration to keep people occupied until the business meeting starts at 9. The features of the business meeting will be the presentation of the William B. Marye Award to this year's winner as well the announcement of the winner's of this year's ASM election. New officers will assume their duties immediately.

The Civil War program begins at 10 with National Park Service archeologist Stephen Potter speaking on "Antietam, the Archeology of America's Bloodiest Day." Two other talks also are schedule for the morning, Charles Jacobs on "Montgomery County during the Civil War" and Joy Beasley on the Monocacy battlefield.

After a break for lunch, during which music will be provided by the Civil War Regimental Band, there will be three afternoon sessions.

Details on the 2 to 2:30 session are still incomplete, but right after lunch Tony Cohen will speak on the Underground Railroad. Cohen was a big hit when he spoke to an ASM audience several years ago.

To close the day, Mark Windham will return to a subject that has drawn attention from several ASM audiences, the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley. Windham will review forensic methods and results of the probe into the recovered boat.

Seating for the Fall Meeting will be limited because of the size of the hall and early registration is suggested. A complete program along with registration information and directions is on an insert with this newsletter.

## Election ballot reminder

If you haven't mailed in your 2004 ASM ballot, remember to bring it with you to the meeting in Wheaton. Ballots will be collected and counted and the winners announced during the meeting.

# Upcoming events

**November 4 - 7:** Joint ESAF-Ontario Archeological Society meeting, Midland, Ontario. [oasociety@bellnet.ca](mailto:oasociety@bellnet.ca)

**November 13:** Annual ASM Meeting, at Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallen Avenue, Wheaton, Md.

## Volunteer opportunities

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

The **Mid-Potomac Chapter** is looking for volunteers to help supervise excavation at Dowden's Ordinary.

**November 6**, reopening the Oakley Cabin excavation for Emancipation Day celebration. **Montgomery County** lab and field work. Call 301-840-5848 or contact [james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org) or [heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org). CAT opportunity.

The Northern Chesapeake Chapter is returning to **Garrett Island**. Contact Bill McIntyre regarding field or lab work: 410-939-0768 or [williamlmac@comcast.net](mailto:williamlmac@comcast.net)

**ASM field session collection:** Volunteers are needed to work on up-grading collections associated with previous field sessions. The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. For additional information contact Louise Akerson [akerson@comcast.net](mailto:akerson@comcast.net) or Charlie Hall [hall@dhcd.state.md.us](mailto:hall@dhcd.state.md.us).

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

**Mount Calvert.** Lab work and field work. 301-627-1286.

**Jefferson Patterson Park** invites volunteers to take part in its various activities, including archeology, historical research and artifact conservation. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 410-586-8501.

There is an online listing of fieldwork opportunities **worldwide**, provided by the Archaeological Institute of America. Call up [www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/](http://www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/) to get started. Remember to add the extra A in archaeology.

## CAT Corner

The CAT committee has come up with a slate of programs for the coming year. For more information and updating, CAT participants should look at the ASM website or contact their mentor or program director Chris Davenport at 301-845-8092 or [dig4funds@aol.com](mailto:dig4funds@aol.com). Admission is by reservation, with the public invited if seats are left over. The programs planned for now are:

Lithic workshop, by Carol Ebright. November 6 in Salisbury.

Historic ceramics and glass, by Jim Sorensen, December 11 in Frederick.

The following sessions also are planned but the dates and locations are still to be worked out:

Prehistoric ceramics, by Bob Wall.

Faunal workshop, by Chris Davenport.

Prehistoric/historic overview, by Chris Davenport and Jim Gibb.

Lithics workshop: technology, by Jason Coffey.

Law and ethics, by Richard Hughes and Charlie Hall.

## Hurricanes reveal archeology sites in Florida

*Condensed from Knight-Ridder News Service, October 16, 2004*

HUTCHINSON ISLAND, Fla. -- Hurricanes kill, injure and destroy, but they also can reveal. Directly striking this barrier island, Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne exposed - then partially destroyed - new evidence of the area's earliest inhabitants, according to scientists along the Treasure Coast in southeastern Florida.

Among the most interesting discoveries was an ax fragment, made from basaltic stone not found in Florida. "It has made its way here from somewhere in the Appalachian Mountains," said archeologist Bob Carr said. "We know that trade routes extended all the way from there to here."

# Paleo site found on PG County knoll-top

By James G. Gibb

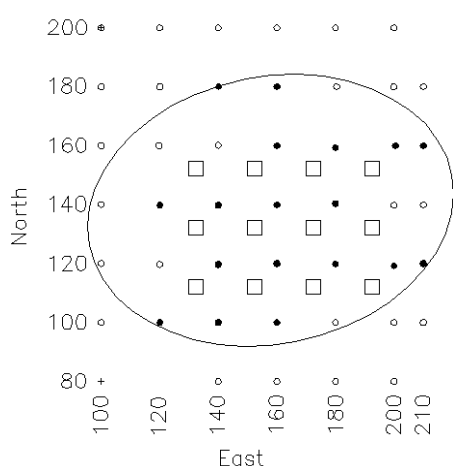
"Hey, Jim, here's something!"

Yes, it was something: Dionisios Kavadias had found a black chert Clovis point on a knoll-top that we were collecting in southern Prince George's County. The tip was gone, but the point was unmistakably Paleo-Indian. Lying on top of a knoll, it could not have been redeposited. Not particularly good news for our client, whose plans to build a house on that spot were put into question for a while, but a rare and wonderful find for us.

We returned twice, after heavy rains, to collect the small field and then later to conduct close interval shovel testing (45 units at 20-foot intervals) and to dig a dozen  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$  foot excavation units. The prospects for finding well-preserved deposits were not good. Virtually the entire knoll had lost its topsoil to poor farming practices - it looked like a giant pile of gravel awaiting transport to a construction site. But the top of the knoll, barely one-third of an acre, retained its original, if deflated, topsoil of silt loam and fine sandy loam. The average thickness was under 7 inches (less than 17 cm) and as little as  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches (under 10 cm).

Shovel testing narrowed the surviving extent of artifacts to the plowzone in an oval area of about 0.2 acres. No artifacts were recovered from the subsoil. Excavation of 12 small units confirmed that all of the artifacts were in the plowzone and we encountered no subsurface features.

The combined assemblage from the surface, shovel tests and excavation units produced two bifaces (the Clovis point and a Bare Island biface), a unifacially worked scraper, 83 flakes, and 95 fire-cracked rocks. The



*(Left) The field crew established a sampling grid with 20-foot intervals for shovel testing and unit excavation. Filled circles are shovel tests yielding prehistoric artifacts. The large oval delineates the approximate limits of the surviving portion of the site. (Right) Dionisios Kavadias found the Clovis (left) on the surface of the plowed field. The Bare Island biface (middle) was found in an excavation unit and the scraper (right) on the surface.*

site's occupants preferred quartzite to quartz for pebbles used in heating (59 percent to 34), but used chert, cherty limestone and limonitic sandstone as well. Quartz, by contrast, comprised 78 percent of the flaked stone assemblage, compared to 12 percent quartzite, 6 chert and 1 rhyolite.

The ratio of early stage (decortication and primary) to late stage (secondary and tertiary) flakes varied with the method used in their discovery, surface collecting and combined shovel testing and excavation yielding ratios of 0.9:1 and 1.3:1, respectively, and a nearly 1:1 ratio for the entire assemblage, shatter excluded. All stages of lithic reduction were represented, although primary flakes (n=4) were rare.

Is Garrett's Chance #3 (18PR704) a Paleo-Indian camp in which stone tools (represented by flakes) were made, food processed and prepared (fire-cracked rock) and other activities (one scraper) occurred, or is it a multicomponent site, some of the activities attributable to the Paleo-Indian period, others to the Late and Transitional Archaic periods? The Bare Island biface and use of quartz for stone tool-making supports the

latter explanation and even raise the possibility that Archaic people collected the Clovis point and transported it to the site.

The probability of our finding a stray point collected by people several thousand years ago seems remote. The Archaic attribution also rests on a single point from a small, well-collected and well-sampled field.

Bare Island points seem not to have been used as projectile points but as hafted knives and scrapers. They appear on multi-component sites throughout the Middle Atlantic and southern New England states, and westward into the Midwest, raising the possibility that they were reinvented generalized forms that by themselves are not specific to a single archeological culture. The reliance on quartz, and to a lesser extent quartzite, reflects local availability of lithic material. Discovery of single-component Paleo-Indian sites apart from sources of fine cryptocrystalline sources may yet reveal a pattern of local lithic material use for points and other formal and expedient tools.

Dionisios's find, if it reveals nothing else, indicates that Paleo-Indian materials in non-redeposited contexts can be found among the eroded landforms of Southern Maryland.

## Senate bill would expand NAGPRA rule

When Congress returns from its election recess this month, it might take up a seemingly innocuous Senate bill that would alter the NAGPRA act to the detriment of those who want to study ancient Indian remains.

The bill, S2843, introduced by Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Col.) was passed by the Committee on Indian Affairs and is awaiting action by the full Senate. Called a technical corrections bill, among its many provisions is one that would add the words "or was" to a definitional section of the law. The change would make the law read that in the context of ancient remains, the term "Native American" refers to a member of a tribe, a people or a culture that is *or was* indigenous to the United States.

Campbell, chairs the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, which approved the bill with little discussion.

Recently a federal court of appeals upheld a ruling against efforts by some Northwest Indian tribes to prevent scientists from examining the 9,300-year-old bones known as Kennewick Man, saying there was no link between the remains and any known tribe. The bill would have the effect of reversing that decision, if it is applied retroactively, and would limit future finds.

"It's a real sneaky way to amend" the Indian graves law, said Alan Schneider, an attorney for the scientists who have been fighting for eight years to study the Kennewick remains.

The skeleton was discovered in 1996 along the Columbia River near Kennewick, Wash. The four tribes claimed they were entitled to the bones under NAGPRA, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The tribes wanted to have the bones reburied without any scientific studies.

Schneider and the advocacy group Friends of America's Past said they were concerned the bill would go to the full Senate as a routine "housekeeping" measure and be approved with little or no debate.

"Basically all ancient skeletons would be subject to NAGPRA, and under the tribes' interpretation you couldn't study them," Schneider told the Associated Press.

But an attorney for one of the tribes called the criticism off base. Even if the bill is enacted, it is not clear that it would apply to Kennewick Man, said Rob Roy Smith, an attorney for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation.

"I'm not sure if it would have any retroactive effect," Smith said.

Supporters say the bill would strengthen the case of tribes trying to claim and bury ancient remains without having to prove a link to a current tribe.

"Something that is indigenous, such as tribes of the Northwest related to Kennewick Man, cannot lose indigenousness over time," Smith said.

Smith and others said the graves protection law was meant to be broader than has been interpreted by courts, including the 9th Circuit.

While supporters hope the bill will be approved this year, "if not I would hope someone else takes up Sen. Campbell's cause next year," Smith said. Campbell is retiring from the Senate at the end of the year.

ASM members who oppose changing NAGPRA can write to their U.S. senators, alerting them to the repercussions of the bill and urging them to amend or vote against it.

# Progress in fight against Iraq looting

By Roger Atwood

*Condensed from the Washington Post, October 3, 2004*

Last August, Rhode Island author Joseph Braude became the first person to be convicted in connection with the looting of Iraq's National Museum of Antiquities. As a smuggler, Braude was pretty amateurish. He had bought three 4,000-year-old stone seals from a street vendor in Baghdad, didn't bother to scrape off the tiny letters "I.M." (for Iraqi museum) and then foolishly denied to the customs inspector that he had been in Iraq.

A small victory, perhaps, but Braude's conviction shows how international action to stop the flow of stolen antiquities can produce real results - and not just in U.S. courts. At a symposium in Turkey in June, Iraq's new general director of museums, Donny George, said coordinated efforts by governments and law enforcement agencies in the 16 months after the looting of the Baghdad museum had resulted in the recovery in six countries of at least 5,200 pieces out of roughly 13,000 stolen.

Thirteen thousand artifacts are far fewer, of course, than the 170,000 mistakenly reported missing in the days following Saddam Hussein's downfall. The confusion developed when Western journalists arrived at the trashed museum and were shocked to find the shelves empty. The staff, it later emerged, had moved most of the artifacts into storage vaults before the fighting started - a fact that distraught curators failed to explain.

Out of this disaster has come a palpable change in the way governments and police deal with the illegal trade in cultural property. Governments that once looked the other way or responded with bureaucratic half-measures have been shamed into taking a swifter, more pro-active approach. Within weeks, they took the kinds of actions that in the past took years - tightening border controls, circulating photographs of specific pieces, training police to recognize suspect pieces when they see them.

With the exception of Kuwait and Iran, governments have adopted the kinds of measures that advocates of cultural patrimony have been urging for years - and they got results. Italy has confiscated more than 300 pieces looted from the museum. Syria has confiscated 200. In Iraq itself, more than 3,000 objects have been seized or voluntarily returned to the museum. Jordan, which has worked the hardest among Iraq's neighbors to prevent itself from being used as a transshipment point, had seized an extraordinary 1,054 pieces by June.

In the United States, about 600 antiquities known or strongly suspected to have been stolen from the museum have been confiscated or voluntarily relinquished, nearly all of them at airports, according to George.

This rich haul of stolen goods would never have happened if federal authorities had not circulated images and descriptions of Iraqi treasures to all U.S. ports of entry. It was one of those bulletins - a one-page flier - that led that inspector to recognize Braude's little seals.

As for the museum's most famous stolen treasures, photos of them appeared on the Internet within days of the looting. They became impossible to sell and few seem to have made it out of Iraq. The celebrated 3d millennium B.C. sculpture known as the Lady of Warka was returned to the museum after it had circulated among at least five would-be Iraqi sellers. The last of them, frustrated at his inability to find a buyer, buried it in an orchard, where it was retrieved after American investigators received a tip-off.

The most important changes, though, are more long-term. Switzerland, for example, a notorious shoppers' mart for looted antiquities, finally ratified last October the 1970 UNESCO Convention on Cultural Property, the treaty that remains the backbone of global efforts to combat the trade in plundered goods. (The United States ratified the treaty in 1983.) Two months later, Britain enacted legislation that, for the first time, made it a crime to buy or sell illegally excavated or removed antiquities in that country, whatever the origin.

No matter how many stolen museum pieces are recovered, an even more urgent task is stopping the relentless pillage of archeological sites inside Iraq. Every ancient site I saw in Iraq last year was under assault. At the biblical city of Nimrud, I saw where professional looters had chiseled out carvings decorating the imposing stone walls of the palace of King Ashurnasirpal II.

Reports suggest the pillage has since grown much worse. The buried remains of the 4,000-year-old Sumerian city of Isin have been turned upside down by hundreds of illegal diggers. With security as chaotic as it is in Iraq, it is unrealistic to expect coalition troops to guard all these remote ancient sites against looters. All we can hope is that the continued seizures of stolen artifacts will start to cool looting.

## **From the Trust: Good news at Chapel Point**

**By Maureen Kavanagh**

*Chief, Office of Archeology*

Now that the weather's turned crisp and we all dried out from the last (hopefully last!) tropical storm, we managed to escape from the office the other day to visit a few sites in southern Maryland. On the list was Chapel Point, a shell midden site where many of you excavated during the 1988 and 1989 ASM field sessions.

The purpose of the visit was to assess the erosion and I'm happy to report that there does not seem to be much bank loss during the last 15 years. Dennis Curry and I also were struck by how small the site seemed. Not unlike the experience of returning to your childhood home, the scene of so much intense activity expands in your mind. Or perhaps it's the fact that we spend so much time staring into a one-meter square.

Fall is really the beginning of the year in the office, due both to the fiscal year structure and the schedule of our main annual activities. As mentioned in the last newsletter, the Maryland Historical Trust has awarded a grant to the ASM of \$20,000 to support both the ASM Field Session and Maryland Archeology Month. In addition to gearing up on those projects, office staff will continue work on our survey of the Springfield Hospital Center for the town of Sykesville (report writing) and begin a project for Department of Natural Resources in the Piedmont section of the Potomac.

Dennis and I are taking a road-trip to the ESAF meetings in early November up in Ontario, where Dennis will be giving a paper on ossuaries.

Charlie Hall continues to hold lab sessions here at the Trust in Crownsville every Tuesday. A group of dedicated volunteers, led by Louise Akerson and Susan Buonocore, are just completing the repacking and re-cataloging of the Nolands Ferry material and will be starting on a new project soon. This vital work is slowly but surely chipping away at some of the old business left undone over the years. Newcomers are always welcome. To participate, please contact Charlie at 410-514-7665.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Meeting November 13.

## **Chapter notes**

### **Anne Arundel**

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

**Nov 17:** Richard Hughes on Benjamin Banneker.

### **Central**

Central chapter does not have meetings, but tries to stay active with projects. This fall Central Chapter plans to continue its field work at the Clarke Farm Property, in southern Carroll County, where four concentrations of prehistoric lithics have been found on the surface. Also, chapter members will assist in various phases of finishing up the Morris Meadows Rockshelter Site report and the chapter will continue to survey and identify potential stable floodplain surfaces for future archeological exploration. Contact Stephen Israel at 410-945-5514 or [ssisrael@abs.net](mailto:ssisrael@abs.net) for information.

### **Mid-Potomac**

Contact [james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org) or [heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org), or call 301-840-5848.

### **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](mailto:ccep@crosslink.net)



## Monocacy

The chapter meets the Wednesday closest to the 15th of each month at the Walkersville Middle School. Contact Joy Hurst at 301-663-6706 or [hurst\\_joy@hotmail.com](mailto:hurst_joy@hotmail.com). Chapter website: [www.digfrederick.org](http://www.digfrederick.org)

## Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month. Contact Dan Coates at [dancoates@comcast.net](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net)

**November 11:** Southhampton Middle School, Native American Indian Month. Tentative.

**December 9:** Annual dinner meeting.

## Southern

Meetings are 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](mailto:katesilas@chesapeake.net) for information.

## Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. 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 [roseannlee@earthlink.com](mailto:roseannlee@earthlink.com)

**November 8:** Pot luck supper at Mt. Ida 6:30. Meeting speaker Steve Israel on "Promoting Maryland Archeology."

**December:** No Meeting.

**January 10:** Lee Preston on "25 Years of UPAG and 12,000 Years of History."

**February 14:** Pot luck supper at 6:30 at Mt. Ida. Meeting speaker Kathy Rigby, "Flora, Fauna and Cultures of the Etosha Pan."

**March 14:** Kathy Fernstrom on "Highlights of Florida Prehistory."

**April 11:** Charlie Hall. Subject TBA.

**May 9:** Pot luck supper at 6:30. Meeting Myron Beckenstein on "The Popham Site."

## 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](mailto:wmdasm@yahoo.com) Website: [www.geocities.com/wmdasm](http://www.geocities.com/wmdasm).

**November:** Field Trip in lieu of regular meeting - TBA

**December:** Christmas Break, No Meeting.

**January 28:** Annual Show-and-Tell Social.

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

ASM, Inc. members receive the monthly newsletter ASM, INC, the biannual MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM, Inc., events and a 10% discount on items sold by the Society. Standard active annual membership rates are \$20.00 for individuals and \$30.00 for families. Please contact Dan Coates for publication sales at ASM Publications, 716 Country Club Rd., Havre de Grace, MD 21078-2104, or (410) 273-9619, e-mail: dancoates@comcast.net. For additional information, and membership categories, please contact Phyllis Sachs at P.O. Box 65001, Baltimore, MD 21209, (410) 664-9060, e-mail psachs4921@aol.com.

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