



ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

The latest on the French and Indian War

The Western Maryland Chapter will be hosting this year's annual ASM meeting. And what is planned for October 15 in Cumberland will be a little bit different than the usual meeting schedule.

The theme of the meeting is the French and Indian War of 1756 to 1763. Not only will several speakers offer their perspectives on it, but a visit will be made to a site associated with that war, Fort Cumberland.

The keynote Frederick M. Stiner Memorial Lecture will be given by Charles C. Hall, president of the Fort Edwards Foundation in West Virginia. The historian and period re-enactor will discuss the impact of the war on the "western lands" and the pivotal role of western Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

The other pre-lunch event will be a visit to Fort Cumberland led by the Reverend Edward Carter Chapman. Chapman has a degree in history and presides over the church that sits on the site of the fort.

Two speeches are scheduled for after lunch. First will be on "Native Americans and the French and Indian War," by Gina Hamlin and Guy Wells. Gina Hamlin is on the Maryland Council for Indian Affairs, Guy Wells is a historian and veteran re-enactor. Both have a Native American heritage. They will provide information on the impact of the war on Native Americans. They will also share some hands-on activities.

Finally, Western Maryland Chapter member Robert Bantz will talk on his special project, Braddock's Road. Bantz, a retired engineer and longtime historian of the trail, will discuss the significance of the road to Colonial expansion, its construction, its eventual decline and loss to history. He will show how he located and mapped it as well as preservation of metal artifacts found along the way.

Lunch will be a la carte by local caterer, a variety of home-cooked foods at reasonable prices.

"It is hoped that we can end the day early enough to allow attendees to avail themselves of the local attractions such as the Western Maryland Train Station, The Shops at Canal Place, Downtown Cumberland walking mall, Rocky Gap State Park or other activities in Allegany County," said chapter president Ed Hanna. "The F&I War era Cresap House museum is in nearby Oldtown and the Ft. Edwards site is in nearby Capon Bridge, West Virginia. This weekend also is Autumn Glory Festival in Garrett County, a short drive west."

Admission is \$5, lunch extra. As an added inducement, anyone joining the Western Maryland Chapter at the meeting and paying their \$10 annual dues will be admitted for free.

The chapter also is offering two trips for people who plan to stay in the area a bit longer. After the meeting, a short visit will be made to the Barton site, where the chapter has been digging for years and where ASM has held several field schools. The "deep unit" will be open for those wanting to look at the area that produced C-14 readings of beyond 10,000 years.

Sunday there will be a French and Indian War trip to Little Meadows, offering a chance to see and walk along the Braddock's Road.

Upcoming events

October 15: ASM Annual Meeting, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Cumberland. Theme: French and Indian War.

October 21 – 23: Developing International Geoarchaeology meeting, Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada. DIG 2005 is aimed at promoting and encouraging the application of the geological sciences to archeological problems. Information at www.dig2005.com

October 31: Lecture, "I See Dead People." Erin Cullen talks about unexpected burials discovered by the Lost Towns Project. 1 p.m., Anne Arundel County Office Building, Room 2664. Call 410-222-7441.

November 9-13: ESAF meeting, Williamsburg, Virginia. www.esaf-archeology.org

Volunteer opportunities

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

Montgomery County lab, field work Wednesdays, 9:30 to 2:30. Call 301-840-5848 or contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org. CAT opportunity.

ASM field session collection: Volunteers are needed to work on up-grading collections associated with previous field sessions. Currently, the collection from the Rosenstock Site, a key Late Woodland Montgomery Complex area, is being upgraded. The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. For additional information contact Louise Akerson rakerson@comcast.net or Charlie Hall 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.

The Archaeological Institute of America provides an online listing of fieldwork opportunities worldwide, Call up www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/ to get started. Remember to add the extra A in archaeology.

CAT corner

For updates and for information on CAT activities check the ASM website or contact your mentor or director Chris Davenport. He can be reached at 301-845-8092 or dig4funds@aol.com

Special fieldwork opportunity: Richard Ervin of SHA is working on the Broad Creek Cemetery, a 17th through 19th Century cemetery on Kent Island. On occasion and on very short notice, it is necessary for him to conduct emergency excavations in preparation for new interments. Contact him at 410-545-2878 (days), 410-643-7128 (evenings) or by email at rervin@sha.state.md.us

Non Sequitur

By Wiley



From the Trust

The Rosenstock site to be preserved

By Maureen Kavanagh

Chief, Office of Archeology

The Rosenstock site in Frederick County is the latest archeological site to be protected under the Maryland Historical Trust's Historic Preservation Easement Program. Many members of ASM recall the three consecutive field sessions held there in 1990-1992; still others with longer histories may have attended the 1979 field session there as well.

Rosenstock is a Late Woodland Montgomery Complex village situated on a high bluff overlooking the Monocacy River. Testing at the site documented the presence of numerous intact subsurface features at the site, including large, deep trash-filled pits, hearth and post molds suggesting the former presence of structures. Investigations also recovered an abundance of artifacts: ceramics, projectile points, lithic tools and debitage, faunal remains and tools, clay pipe fragments and other objects. Radiocarbon dates ranged from A.D. 1015 +/- 60 to A.D. 1570 +/- 70, with a cluster of dates from the early to mid 1400s.

The dates of occupation during the 15th Century coincide with a time of upheaval and disruption in settlements in the region and suggest that the Rosenstock site may hold some of the answers to the ultimate disappearance of the Montgomery Complex groups from the middle Potomac valley. A preliminary report on the excavations from the four field sessions is in the March 2004 issue of Maryland Archeology.

Property owners who enter into easements agree to not alter the property without the approval of the Maryland Historical Trust. In exchange, they typically receive a reduction in property taxes that reflects the restrictions on the use of their property and sometimes the loss of development value. With the addition of Rosenstock, there are now 16 archeological sites protected under easement. Easements transfer with properties if they are sold, so they are an ideal mechanism to ensure long-term protection.

On a related note, the enthusiastic efforts of the ASM field crews in the 90s resulted in the retrieval of approximately 200 boxes of artifacts that have yet to be catalogued. Coincidentally, the Tuesday lab volunteers in Crownsville are currently working on organizing and repacking this collection. Any help would be greatly appreciated; please contact Charlie Hall (hall@dhcd.state.md.us) or at 410-514-7665 if you can volunteer some of your time.

Katrina poses artifact salvage problems

By Petula Dvorak

From the Washington Post, September 1, 2005

Their bags are packed with safety glasses, gloves, masks, boots and suits. As soon as they hit the ground in New Orleans, they plan to set up triage tents and long tables.

Then the emergency team from the National Park Service will begin its work: blotting, washing, drying, straightening and preserving centuries of historical artifacts that tell the story of one of the oldest U.S. cities.

The curators, archeologists and historians of the Park Service's Museum Resource Center are not the bookish types who dwell in dusty stacks.

These are people who are trained in outdoor survival skills, are immunized against disaster area diseases, have helicoptered in and out of work sites and know how to identify poisonous snakes and spiders, said Pam West, director of the center.

Their biggest enemy is mildew.

"When we do retrieved artifacts, we're dealing in extreme mold," West said. "Anytime 48 hours pass, you get mold. You have to fight mold. We've seen it turn the most amazing colors -- bubble-gum pink once."

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The preservationists dried and blotted a million artifacts from colonial Jamestown in Virginia after Hurricane Isabel hit in 2003. Last year, they used boats to get to 300,000 artifacts in the Fort Pickens museum near Pensacola, Fla., after Hurricane Ivan.

Once it gets the all-clear in the coming days, the preservation team will head to the Crescent City to retrieve documents, photographs, furniture and other pieces of history that have marked the rich life of a city founded in 1718 and occupied by the French, Spanish, Creoles, Americans, Confederates, fire, disease and water -- again and again.

There are photographs and musical instruments in the Park Service's jazz museum, musical scores in Louis Armstrong's home, archives at the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve museum and the Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery, all floating in swampy, oily, polluted water.

Once the artifacts are pulled from the water, Park Service specialists can begin the work: laying out, sorting, stretching, drying. "Papers can be freeze-dried. Photos, furniture and furnishings can be washed and dried," West said.

Sometimes, they can clean objects and transport them for restoration at a better facility. But as is often the case in hurricane situations -- where humans, let alone objects, can't get transportation, refrigeration or water -- curators have to work in less-than-ideal conditions. "I saw someone preserve a 20-by-20 photo right there on the spot once. They knew how to dry and blot and straighten it right there, in the middle of camp," West said.

The team also plans to work with universities and the residents of New Orleans, helping restore hundreds of years of memories.

Saving Iraqi treasures was in her hands

By Deborah Murphy

Condensed from the Brunswick, Maine, Times Record, September 15, 2005

BRUNSWICK - On May 16, 2003, just over a month after the fall of Baghdad, Maj. Corine Wegener of the U.S. Army Reserve walked into the Iraq National Museum.

An assistant curator at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts in civilian life, she was about to enter into the most challenging and bizarre assignment of her 20-year tenure as a military reservist.

She had very little training in art conservation, but found herself -- with what she described as a "sinking feeling of responsibility" -- to be the only American service member in Iraq with any training in that field. Her assignment, as the Army's arts, monuments and archives manager in Iraq, was to oversee the restoration and preservation of art from the ransacked Baghdad museum.

Images of the widespread theft and vandalism of the Baghdad museum in the days immediately following the city's fall on April 9, 2003, shocked the world. Wegener followed the story from her home in Minnesota. Just over a week after the Baghdad looting, she received a call from an assistant at the Minneapolis Institute of the Arts telling her "the Army's looking for you." She was given two weeks to deploy.

Wegener said she expected, on her arrival in Iraq, to act primarily as a liaison between the Army, staff at the National Museum and a team of international art conservators. Once on the ground, however, she realized that no cavalry of conservation experts was forthcoming.

Wegener's limited training in conservation had involved "mostly knowing what not to do." On seeing the shattered fragments of a marble statue on the floor of the Iraq museum, she gave instructions that the pieces be left in place until an expert could be brought in to properly examine and tag them. This order held, until one day she walked in to find the fragments swept away: the military desire for order had intervened.

Though individuals with conservation experience from around the world were willing to travel to Iraq to help, "they weren't able to get permission. You don't just get to walk into a war zone as an individual person and say 'I'm here,'" she said.

Wegener was forced to improvise, keeping in contact via satellite phone with her assistant at the Minneapolis museum, who did Internet research for her, as well as with other experts in the states. She lacked necessary supplies and asked for "acid free boxes and paper, gloves, tags, indelible ink" via military mail.

Her first objectives involved a different kind of restoration: Restoring power to the museum, and repairing the building's air conditioning. Even the simplest tasks proved difficult: Travel through the non-secure city involved a military escort, and civilian workers were hard to find.

Another early task was developing an accurate estimate of the number of objects missing from the museum. Initial media reports had claimed as many as 170,000 items lost -- a confusion exacerbated by the fact that museum staffers had hidden many of the museum's most valuable items before the conflict to protect them.

The current estimate, according to Wegener, is that about 14,000 items are missing. Though this is less than the initial assessment, the loss is no less severe. "You can't overstate, these items are irreplaceable," she said.

Wegener was present for one of the most celebrated recoveries of art. She supervised as the Treasure of Nimrud -- a collection of gold jewelry and semi-precious stones from the Assyrian empire, circa the 8th and 9th centuries B.C. -- was removed from the bank vault where it had been concealed by museum staff. The area surrounding the vault had been flooded with sewage by the bank manager to discourage looters. "The smell was awful, but all of us were smiling," she said.

Wegener has, since her return to the states, worked tirelessly to ensure that art in combat zones will be better protected in the future. She is co-authoring a "pocket guide" for soldiers, an emergency conservation manual of do's and don'ts, as well as advocating for the United States to join an international organization of conservators akin to "Doctors Without Borders," where volunteers could travel into combat zones to work for the preservation of art.

Wegener said that a lesser known threat than the damage to the museum is the looting of more than 10,000 archeological sites throughout the country, which is occurring at "a catastrophic rate," she said. "This is happening on a daily basis."

If the items removed from these sites have not been cataloged, "they've lost their context forever."

Meth-odd to their archeology madness

By Joseph Goldstein

Condensed from The (Searcy, Arkansas) Daily Citizen, August 20, 2005

When Tony Young needed a lawyer for his drug charges, he sold his arrowhead collection to raise cash.

It was a collection that had grown alongside Young's meth addiction, fueled by it.

Young, 36, has spent countless nights over the past five years combing through farm fields and river beds searching for artifacts. He had his best finds after a field had been disked and a spring rain had washed dirt from the rocks on the surface, Young said.

The connection between meth use and arrowhead hunting seems accidental, but those who have seen it for themselves say it is strong.

White County Sheriff Pat Garrett said that after the experiences of more than 100 search warrants, he expects to find arrowheads whenever he storms the house of a suspected meth manufacturer.

"I've never been to a search warrant involving drugs where we haven't found arrowheads or pornography, or both, and I've been on a bunch of them," said Garrett, who has himself never been arrowhead hunting. "I noticed it when I first started. It just seemed there were always Indian arrowheads and I couldn't figure it out."

What may attract meth users to the artifacts is the time consuming, mechanical process involved in searching for them, Young said.

"You get kind of wired on that stuff and you need to have something to do," said Young.

It's the tedium of the search and the focus it requires that makes it an attractive hobby to meth users, Young said.

Young said that an average arrowhead hunt lasts six hours, but could go on twice that long.

On some nights Young said other artifact hunters are easier to find than a piece for the collection.

"The strangest things you find out there is other dopeheads," Young said.

In the White County Detention Center are a handful of inmates who say they spent numerous nights collecting arrowheads before being locked up.

Continued on next page

Inmate Bobby Stewart, 45, said he has been hunting for arrowheads since he was 12 years old. The hobby became central to Stewart's life when he began using methamphetamine. For a month long stretch about 10 years ago, Stewart said he did nothing but use meth and look for arrowheads day and night.

While Young said that arrowhead collections often are traded among drug users and dealers, Young's ended up in the hands of a more legitimate collector.

But what is a hobby for Young may be a nuisance for local farmers and a hindrance to the archeology profession.

Farmers like Jerry Smith say that they are well aware of the artifact collectors who pace his fields at night. Smith said that he is both bothered by having drug users on his land and by the fact that they are stealing from him.

"To me arrowhead hunting is the same as me going to a stranger's garden and picking his tomatoes," Smith said. "That land and what's on it belongs to me."

Arkansas State Archeologist Ann Early said that the fascination of meth users with artifacts threatens the integrity of archeological sites.

"It is very troubling for a variety of reasons that the culture of meth use has embraced the idea of collecting relics," Early said. "I know that people using methamphetamine are out collecting at sites. Some have been digging at rock shelters in the Ozarks."

Amateur collectors rarely catalogue their finds and the artifacts lose their value for the archeological field, Early said.

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 Jim Gibb at 410-263-1102 or jamesggibb@comcast.net

Central

Central Chapter has no formal meetings planned. But if someone has a site they want investigated, contact the Maryland Historical Trust or Central Chapter President Stephen Israel at 410-945-5514 or ssisrael@abs.net

Mid-Potomac

Contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org, or call 301-840-5848. Chapter website: www.mid-potomacarchaeology.org

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 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. Chapter website: www.digfrederick.bravehost.com

Northern Chesapeake

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

Southern

Contact Kate Dinnel for information at katesilas@chesapeake.net or 410-586-8538.

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; November, February and May will have a potluck dinner at Mt. Ida instead. Contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or roseannlee@earthlink.com

October 10: Lee Preston on "A History of Longwood: From the 18th into the 21st Century."

November 14: Wayne Clark and Paul Inashima on "New Perspectives, Excavations and Analysis of an Archaic Period Soapstone Quarry in Maryland."

December: No meeting.

January 9: To be announced.

February 13: Robert Wall on "The Barton Site."

March 13: Cherry Koontz on "Two Weeks Around the Horn."

April 10: Charlie and Helen Koontz on "Egypt: Pyramids, Temples and Sculptures."

May 8: Jim Gibb on "Stalking Early Colonial Tidewater Sites."

Western Maryland

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

October 15: ASM Annual Meeting, in lieu of regular program.

October 30: Field trip to Michael Cresap museum in Oldtown.

November: Field trip, TBA.

December: Holiday Break

FRANK AND ERNEST BOB THAVES



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

ASM. Inc members receive the monthly newsletter ASM Ink, the biannual journal MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM events and a 10% discount on items sold by the Society. Contact Membership Secretary Belinda Urquiza for membership rates. For publication sales, 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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