

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

Annual meeting Nov. 7 in your own house

Four talks focusing on the roles and contributions women make to Maryland archeology are the centerpiece of this year's ASM Annual Meeting, the first - and we hope the last - to be held virtually via Zoom. The date is Saturday, November 7. Technology allows members to join the event without leaving home, but pre-registration is required.

The session will also include the ASM business meeting, getting members up-to-date on Society and chapter activities, as well as presenting the Marye Award for contributions to Maryland archeology - the Society's highest honor - and the results of this year's ASM election.

The timetable for the day is: 9 a.m.: opening and business meeting; 10:20, talks begin and last until about 2. There will be a half-hour break beginning around noon for lunch.

The first talk, the Frederick Stiner Memorial Lecture, is scheduled to begin around 10:20. Julie King of St. Mary's College of Maryland and a native of the state will talk about the changes she has seen since she first got involved in Maryland archeology.

She will be followed by Cassandra Michaud of Montgomery County Parks. Women have played a prominent role in exploring the Josiah Henson site and the accompanying Henson museum, probing the story of the enslaved man possibly connected to "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

After a half hour break to give you an opportunity to scrounge for lunch, Susan Langley will take the virtual podium. The state Underwater Archeologist's talk, "Iron Mermaids," will review the history of women in diving and underwater archeology, both in wet suits and on the land.

In the day's final talk, Heather Bouslog of Montgomery County Parks will focus on nine women and their contributions to digging in this state.

To join in the day's activities, members need to register at the link below. Once registered, they will receive an email with the details on how to gain access to Zoom and to the meeting. If there are questions or additional information is wanted, contact Valerie.Hall@gmail.com. or <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebrating-women-in-maryland-archaeology-2020-asm-annual-meeting-tickets-120865135875>

The presentations (starting with Julie King's Keynote address) will be live-streamed on Mid-Potomac Chapter's Facebook page -- <https://www.facebook.com/ASMmidpotomac/live/> The business meeting will not be live-screened nor will any of the break times.

IF YOU ARE NEW TO ZOOM, DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TRY SIGNING IN! IT CAN BE CONFUSING FOR NEW USERS AND VALERIE CAN ONLY HANDLE SO MANY CALLS FOR HELP AT ONCE.

Upcoming events

November 7: Annual meeting of ASM. Virtual.

December 5: ASM board meeting, Heritage House, Ellicott City. All members welcome. 9 a.m.

Volunteer opportunities (non-covid)

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

ASM Volunteer Lab, most Tuesdays: The lab in Crownsville. Contact Charlie Hall at charles.hall@maryland.gov or Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net. It is currently working on cataloging artifacts from the Levering Coffee House Site, Baltimore (a mostly late 18th/early 19th Century site).

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 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 sites. For diggers, the Linniston site on Gibson Island Fridays from 8 to 3. The lab will be open some weekdays at the Anne Arundel collection facility at 7409 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd. in Glen Burnie. For more information email Drew Webster at volunteers@losttownsproject.org or call 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 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.

UPAG/Howard County Recs and Parks invites volunteers interested in processing collections and conducting historical research to contact Kelly Palich at Kpalich@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-0423.

CAT corner: For information on the CAT program, contact chair Kelly Palich at Kpalich@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-0423.

It's ASM renewal time again

As the year draws mercifully to a close, so does your membership in ASM. A renewal form is with this newsletter and also on the ASM website, marylandarcheology.org. Renew now while you are thinking of it.

Workshop talks are available online

To substitute for the cancelled March 28 Workshop in Archeology, its planned lectures are now available online at https://mht.maryland.gov/archeology_workshop.shtml.

Priestly Plantations: What We Know (and Want to Find Out) About the Archeology of Jesuit Sites in Maryland, by Laura Masur, the Catholic University of America.

A bleak, barren sand beach: Recent Investigations at Point Lookout Light Station, by Rob Wanner, archeologist and GIS technician with EAC/Archeology.

Cobble Reduction and Tool Production from Late Archaic through Late Woodland at the Elkridge Site by Bob Wall, Towson University.

The once great plantation is now but a wilderness: Archeological research at the Josiah Henson Site by Cassandra Michaud, Montgomery Parks (M-NCPPC)

Archeology at the Cloverfields Site, by Zachary Andrews, Applied Archaeology and History Associates.

Slave quarters found in St. Mary's County

By McKenna Oxenden

Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, Oct. 27, 2020

Archeologists from the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration have discovered a 300-year-old slave quarters on a Jesuit plantation in St. Mary's County.

The remains, which might date back to around 1700, were found buried in farm fields at Newtowne Neck State Park in Southern Maryland right by an 18th Century brick manor once occupied by Jesuit missionaries,



according to a news release from the agency Tuesday. St. Mary's College of Maryland archeologists also assisted with the discovery.

The discovery is part of Maryland Rediscovery 400 where archeologists help locate, promote and interpret Southern Maryland's history. Metal detectors are being used to pinpoint the locations of early cabins, places where the enslaved left evidence of their lives in broken clay tobacco pipes, ceramic cups and rusty nails.

"The Jesuits were prolific in their record keeping, but very little survived on the enslaved African-Americans who worked the fields and served the Catholic Church," Julie Schablitsky, SHA's chief archeologist, said in the news release. "If there was ever a place in Maryland that holds the story of diverse cultures converging to find religious freedom in an environment of conflict, sacrifice and survival, it is here."

The Rev. Dante Eubanks, a resident of Leonardtown, traces his family to this plantation.

"To be able to stand in the exact place where my ancestors lived and endured is a powerful experience," he said in the news release. "We need to remember these stories, they are important to our history and healing."

Archeologists have been working on the project since Oct. 19 and will continue digging through Friday. The artifacts will then be analyzed to learn more, SHA said, and all the findings will be incorporated into interpretive signs and materials.

(ASM conducted field school excavations elsewhere on the site in 2013, under the direction of Jim Gibb and Scott Lawrence.)

Do you remember the feeling?

That evening I came back and worked on alone. The rectangle of darkened earth at the entrance to the burial chamber showed up quite clearly in front of me. I scraped away with the trowel and then I switched to the bodkin. It wasn't long after starting that I came across the greenish band. It was running through the soil like a grass stain. At first, I thought my eyes were playing up. I had to blink a few times before I'd allow myself to believe it.

With the pastry brush, I swept the earth away, taking off as much as I dared. I was worried that if I took any more away the whole thing might vanish completely. But far from disappearing, the green band showed up even more distinctly than before.

Then, to the left of the first one, I found another green band. The color was a little duller than before — more speckled too — but still impossible to miss. I took these to be the remains of bronze hoops. Possibly belonging to a barrel, or some sort of wood container.

When I looked at my watch, I saw that it had already gone nine o'clock. I was astonished — I thought I'd been going for about 15 minutes. The light was fading now. Even so, I was in a muck sweat. I keep having to wipe my forehead with my sleeve. I knew I was going to have to give up soon. But I couldn't bear to stop. Not yet.

-- Opening lines of *"The Dig,"* by John Preston, a novel about the discovery of the Sutton Hoo treasure.



New Nazca Lines drawing found in Peru

By Tiffany May

Condensed from the New York Times, October 19, 2020

The image, stretching for 40 yards on a hillside in Peru, shows a creature with pointy ears, orb-like eyes and a long, striped tail. It appears to be a cat lounging, as cats often do.

Archeologists stumbled across the faded etching while remodeling a section of a UNESCO heritage site known as the Nazca Lines, Peru's Ministry of Culture announced last week.

The catlike geoglyph — which experts say dates to 200 B.C. to 100 B.C. — is the latest discovery among the carvings of larger-than-life animals and plants previously found between the towns of Nazca and Palpa, in a desert plain about 250 miles southeast of the capital, Lima. The Nazca Lines were first discovered by a Peruvian aerial surveyor in 1927. Images of a hummingbird, a monkey and an orca were unearthed at the site.

The cat etching is believed to be older than any of the prehistoric geoglyphs previously unearthed at Nazca. "It's quite striking that we're still finding new figures, but we also know that there are more to be found," Johny Isla, Peru's chief archeologist for the Nazca Lines, told Efe, a Spanish news agency.

The designs were believed to have been created when ancient Peruvians scraped off a dark and rocky layer of earth, which contrasts with lighter-colored sand underneath. Researchers believe that the figures once served as travel markers.

Drone photography has led to several discoveries in recent years, Isla said. In 2019, researchers from Japan, aided by satellite photography and three-dimensional imaging, unearthed more than 140 new glyphs.

Research and conservation work had continued even during the pandemic, when most tourist sites have been closed. When archeologists and employees cleaned a mound, clear lines showing the cat emerged.

"The figure was barely visible and was about to disappear because it is situated on quite a steep slope that's prone to the effects of natural erosion," the culture ministry said in a statement.

The authorities said that even a stray footprint could mar the fragile grounds and have imposed strict rules against trespassing. But disturbances at the Nazca lines have occurred.

In 2014, Greenpeace activists left shoe marks near a large hummingbird design when they placed a sign that promoted renewable energy, Peruvian officials said. "You walk there and the footprint is going to last hundreds or thousands of years," Luis Jaime Castillo, a Peruvian official and archeologist, told *The Guardian*.

In 2018, a truck driver was arrested after intentionally driving his tractor-trailer across three lines.

Beltway buildup plan has them worried

By Katherine Shaver

Condensed from the Washington Post, October 17, 2020

Tucked behind a bamboo grove and hidden from motorists whizzing past on the Capital Beltway in Maryland lie what researchers say are at least 80 graves, mostly unmarked, in a small wooded cemetery dating to the 1890s.

For seven decades, Moses Morningstar Cemetery lay at the heart of the historical African American community of Gibson Grove in the Cabin John area of Montgomery County. Then came the Capital Beltway. Its construction in the early 1960s split the community, leaving its cemetery on one side of the highway and church on the other.

The Beltway's role in dividing Gibson Grove might have remained a little-known legacy of 20th-Century planning that often treated Black communities as the easiest path for new highways. But a Maryland State Highway Administration plan to widen the Beltway and add toll lanes — potentially requiring that some gravesites be moved — has raised new objections from local residents and historians who say a painful history shouldn't be repeated.

Maryland highway officials said they're trying to find ways to avoid the cemetery altogether and, if not, then reduce the harm caused to it.

Julie M. Schablitsky, chief archeologist for the Maryland State Highway Administration, said governments now pay closer attention to historical sites than when the Beltway was designed and built in the 1950s and early 1960s. Federal and state laws passed since then require the agency to consider the potential impact on historical cemeteries, buildings, bridges and other structures, she said.

Schablitsky said the SHA has a dozen archeologists and architectural historians who evaluate areas such as Gibson Grove. She said an archeological survey planned for the cemetery later this fall will locate all the graves and help determine whether they can be avoided. In older African American cemeteries, she said, many graves are unmarked or marked by stones, shells or pieces of concrete.

"We want to completely avoid cemeteries because it's taboo to impact the final resting place of people's ancestors and family members," Schablitsky said. "We're very, very sensitive to make sure we avoid cemeteries at all costs. . . . We have reverence for the people buried in these cemeteries."

If historical sites or structures can't be avoided in a way that's "feasible and prudent," she said, the state tries to minimize the damage to them. If that's not possible, she said, the state "mitigates" the impacts, such as by installing a historical marker.

Under the state's draft plan to add toll lanes to the Beltway, the widening and a new off-ramp would affect 400 linear feet of the graveyard and expand into about one-third of an acre, or about one-fifth of the total 1.5-acre site.

Schablitsky said the state's plan to add toll lanes to Interstate 270 also could affect Poor Farm Cemetery in Rockville. Its gravesites were relocated years ago for a development project, according to a recent county cemetery inventory, but Schablitsky said archeologists will search for any that might remain. Burials occurred there from 1789 to 1983, according to the inventory, but it was not specifically for African Americans.

Eileen McGuckian, president of the nonprofit Montgomery Preservation Inc., said about one-third of the county's 325 cemeteries were specifically for African Americans. She and other advocates say the state should focus on avoiding the cemetery rather than potentially moving graves.

"They've been using the word 'mitigation,' " McGuckian said of state highway officials. "We've been using the word 'avoidance.' "

Different kind of archeology needed for Africa

By Sada Mire

Condensed from the Guardian, October 31, 2020

The form that archeology has taken in Europe doesn't apply everywhere. Better knowledge of local cultures is vital. Culture is required for them to survive and thrive. Our cultural values glue us to one another and help us create security and a community. I believe that cultural and archeological sites can be part of that basic human need, too.

History keeps us in touch with this identity and sense of community, yet in Africa it has been the preserve of the white investigators. In colonial Africa, archeology evolved in a different manner to the archeology of Britain and France, the colonial powers.

In colonial Africa, in contrast, archeology's slogan was "what have natives got to do with it?" Research teams were strangers to the places they studied. African archeology changed somewhat during independence, to include Islamic states in west Africa and Swahili sultanates in east Africa. This new focus mainly reiterated the "civilizing" element of outside connections rather than any local cultural achievements.

Only in the 1980s did native archeologists start entering the picture. However, even today archeology, in Africa and elsewhere, is a field almost completely dominated by white people, more often than not from the upper and middle classes.

Though I know of colleagues who live and work long-term with the communities they study in order to gain as much knowledge as possible to improve the work, they are very few in number. I realized locals did not relate to the kind of archeology that many did in Africa, with its focus on the origin of things or how old something was. This is because history is a living part of culture and it has an active role in current social issues, often involving ongoing rituals and performances. Studying this involves more than excavating objects from the ground.

Bassey Andah, the late Nigerian archeologist, introduced training programmes in the late 1970s that were adapted to the interests of contemporary African societies. Inspired by his work, I learned that by studying ideas and how they are related to everyday cultural objects and oral history we can gain a better understanding of, for example, statehood and ideologies in the Horn of Africa. We need, then, not only an archeology adapted to African needs and aspirations but also more African archeologists, who can enrich the science.

African archeologists have much to offer. They can tap into cultural knowledge and approaches that foreign archeologists may not have access to. Often, they have different questions for the past, shaped by intimate familiarity with their societies and cultures, and these can contribute to advances in the field. People are very excited to be presented with their heritage by local researchers. Egypt, for instance, is a country whose archeological heritage was until the mid-20th century only associated with foreign teams, with Egyptians only featuring as "workers".

Chapter News

Check with your local chapter to see what activities will take place.

Central Chapter

All Meetings will be held on Zoom the third Tuesday of the Month. For more information and to be added to the Zoom list contact: Katharine Fernstrom at kwfappraising@gmail.com

Nov 17: Chapter president Katharine Fernstrom: Pre-contact Native American human figures have extremely diverse style, pose, completeness and technical function, in contrast to the limited examples repeatedly published in books and catalogs.

January 19, 2021: Ilka Knuppel, president of the Archaeology Club of the Natural History Society of Maryland, on archeological discoveries of the 1st Century and what they can tell us about the historical Jesus.

March 16: Katherine Sterner, of Towson University, on differences told by stone tools, agriculture, and community at late prehistoric sites in Southern Wisconsin.

Charles County

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday (September-May). The next few will be virtual. Contact President Carol Cowherd at ccasm2010@gmail.com for Zoom access information. Website ccarchsoc.blogspot.com and Facebook [@ccasm2010](https://www.facebook.com/ccasm2010)

November 12: The talk by Amelia Chisholm, archeology laboratory director, Anne Arundel County, The Robert Ogle Project, will highlight collections from Charles County sites in Zekiah Swamp area.

Mid-Potomac

Until further notice, all Mid-Potomac Chapter Meetings will be by Zoom starting at 7 p.m., the talk at 7:30, the third Thursday of the month. Contact Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: www.asmmidpotomac.org Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com

November 19: No meeting this month since the chapter is sponsoring the Annual Meeting November 7.

December 17: Our annual Holiday Party, but virtually, with Vivian Eicke, chapter members, presenting "The Best of Archaeologists Gone Wild, part II" and along with other party activities.

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.

Northern Chesapeake

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>

St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph D. Carter State Office Building in the Russell Conference Room, Leonardtown. For information contact Chris Coogan at Ccoogan@smcm.edu

Upper Patuxent

Meetings the second Saturday or Sunday of the month, virtual or at the Heritage Program Office, 9944 Route 108, Ellicott City, unless otherwise noted. www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358 or www.upperpatuxentarchaeology.com or call Kelly Palich, 410 313 0423.

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>

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 Ethan Bean, 609 N. Paca Street, Apt. 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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