



Coming October 18

Fall meeting offers both show and tell

In addition to a series of lectures, this year's ASM annual meeting will feature a tour of the renowned Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum.

Under the guidance of Southern Chapter, the program begins at the museum at 9:45 on Saturday, October 18. After the annual business meeting, where ASM members get briefed on what the board and the various chapters are up to, Joe Dent will detail what has been found and learned at the Winslow Site, the Montgomery County location of the last two ASM field schools.

The annual Frederic M. Stiner Memorial Lecture will be given by Joseph Baker, of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. He will talk about archeology along the Appalachian Trail.

A wide variety of topics is covered by the day's other talks. Howard Wellman, of the MAC Lab staff, will explain how X-rays are used to get better information on metal artifacts in the state collection, a process that can show what the objects are and give hints on how best to conserve them.

Ruth Mitchell will bring members up to date on recent survey and excavation projects at Historic St. Mary's City and Silas Hurry will tell how the exhibits and interpretation there have changed. Both speakers are members of the Historic St. Mary's City Commission.

A State Highway Administration project involving an 18th Century site near Benedict in Charles County will be discussed by John Bedell, of the Louis Berger Group. Finally, Wayne Clark, chief of the Maryland Office of Museum Services, will tell of recent steatite quarry and rockshelter investigations along the Patuxent River in Montgomery County.

The tour of the MAC Lab begins at 1 p.m., right after lunch, and is scheduled to last an hour and a half. Visitors will be shown the various functions performed in the widely acclaimed building.

The complete program is printed on an insert accompanying this month's newsletter. Directions for getting to Jeff Pat are on the back of the program. A preregistration and lunch form is on the inside back page of the newsletter.

Upcoming events

October 6: Esther Doyle-Read will give a lecture on Urban Archaeology in Baltimore at 1 p.m. in the UMBC Fine Arts Building.

October 8: Opening of the UMBC Site Exhibit at the UMBC main library first floor gallery. Dr. Karen Vitelli will give a lecture on "Ethics and Pots - What's the Connection?" at 4 p.m. in the gallery. A reception follows. Call the UMBC Albin O. Kuhn Library 410-445-2232 for directions and hours of the exhibit.

October 18: ASM annual meeting, JPPM MAC Lab.

October 24 - 26: Annual meeting, Archeological Society of Virginia, Williamsburg. www.archeologyvirginia.org

November 1 - 2: The Four Bay Winds First Annual Native American Indian gathering, The Lockhouse, Havre de Grace. Contact Rev. Amy Paul, 410-942-0542.

November 8: Special all-day seminar, cosponsored by ASM, on "The Future of Maryland's Past." At the University of Maryland, College Park. Details later.

November 13 - 16: ESAF meeting, Mt. Laurel, N.J. www.siftings.com/esafmt.html

March 12 - 14, 2004: Mid-Atlantic Archeological Conference annual meeting, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Maryland archeologists will have a leading role in arranging this. If you are interested in giving a paper contact Bernard K. Means, bkmeans@juno.com, or Steve Bilicki, bilicki@dhcd.state.md.us. If you would like to help out at the conference, contact Wayne Clark, clarkw@dhcd.state.md.us

March 31 - April 4: 69th annual meeting of the Society for American Archeology, Montreal, Quebec. Information at 202-789-8200.

April 17: ASM Spring Symposium, Crownsville

CAT CORNER: No programs on tap. Check Volunteer box below for training opportunities.

Volunteer opportunities

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

ASM field session collection: Volunteers are needed to work on up-grading collections associated with previous field sessions. We will start with the Nolands Ferry collection. Nolands Ferry is a Late Woodland site excavated by ASM in 1978 under the leadership of Donald Peck. The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. For additional information contact either Louise Akerson akerson@comcast.net or Charlie Hall hall@dhcd.state.md.us.

Winslow Site artifacts lab work: The washing has to get done before anything else, so they can't promise there will be any cataloguing, but the more people who come in to wash the faster they will get to that. The archeology lab is in the basement of Hurst Hall at American University. For directions or questions, contact Kelsey Woodman at AUArchLab@hotmail.com

Ongoing: The Northern Chesapeake Chapter is offering field and lab work. Call Bill McIntyre at 410-939-0768 or williamlmac@comcast.net

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

Mount Calvert lab work. Call 301-627-1286.



Winslow 2003 field school leaders. From left, Richard Hughes, Tyler Bastian, Dennis Curry, Joe Dent, Charlie Hall
-- Photo by Richard Slattery

Human burial reinterred at the Winslow Site

By Joe Dent, *Principle Investigator*

All along it had been one of our goals to avoid human burials during the excavations at the Winslow site. We were successful until near the end of this year's field season when human remains were encountered in Units N120-122/E100 just to the east of the first structure discovered last season. If you remember, we opened these three units this year in the hope of exposing a few missing post molds associated with that structure.

In completing the excavations of two of those units it became evident that we had indeed come upon the final resting place of perhaps two souls who once had called the 14th Century Winslow village home. A leg bone was exposed protruding from a darkened area and I thought that more human material was being uncovered from a nearby area. That latter area fortunately did not ultimately yield human remains.

Once we were sure that human skeletal material had been found, we informed the Maryland Indian Commission through Richard Hughes at the Maryland Historic Trust. A meeting was soon organized on-site with members of the commission. At that meeting we presented our research strategy and findings thus far and explained the importance of knowing if the individual was buried within the nearby structure (a known practice but one rare in Maryland). We also expressed regret over disturbing the burial. We in turn listened to the Native American concerns for their ancestors. In the end we were able to expose the burial for study in place before reburying it. We were asked to undertake the excavation with reverence and with few people on site. All of this we did.

Once fully exposed, the burial pit proved to contain the remains of a young woman. In respect we called her Willow Sage, a name suggested by Kathy Steuer, who, along with Martha Wallace, expertly exposed the skeleton. The remains were examined one very rainy day (of course) by Doug Owsley from the Smithsonian and Dana Kollmann, ASM member and doctoral student at American University.

Willow Sage was between 22 and 24 years old at the time of her death. Paturation pitting on her pelvis presented strong evidence that she had recently delivered a child. She therefore probably passed away during or shortly after giving birth. In life Willow Sage stood about 5 feet 2 inches tall and was of slight build. There was no evidence, such as seen later in many Anglo-American burials in the 17th century, that she led a physically hard life.

She was buried in a very tightly flexed position. We found her laid on her back with her legs folded and drawn up against her left side. Interment appears just within the house discovered last year. Willow Sage's left arm was positioned under her legs and her right arm was laid across her chest. Her head was oriented to the southeast and she faced directly east toward the rising sun.

The remains of Willow Sage were treated with great respect. Her presence was strangely powerful at the site during the few days she came back into this world. As quickly as possible, however, we placed along side her a Sacagawea coin and a sealed container with documents explaining the ASM excavations at Winslow.

Willow Sage was then carefully covered with clean fill dirt and allowed to resume her journey.

Appeals court hears Kennewick case

By Annette Cary

Condensed from the Tri-City Herald, September 11, 2003

PORTLAND, Oregon - Seven years after the skeleton of Kennewick Man was fished from the shallows of the Columbia River, another court took up the task yesterday of deciding its future.

The U.S. 9th District Court of Appeals will decide whether the 9,000-year-old skeleton may be studied by scientists as a lower court ruled or whether the bones must be turned over to Northwest tribes.

At stake is not just what might happen to the bones of Kennewick Man, but also a precedence for whether other ancient bones may be studied or should be returned to tribes under the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, or NAGPRA.

Scientists who briefly studied the bones when they were found concluded the narrow skull more closely resembled the Polynesians or the Ainu, an aboriginal Japanese people, than modern Native Americans.

"Preliminary studies suggested this was unlike anything seen before except in very, very small handfuls," said Paula Barran, representing the scientists.

The tribes believe that the stories passed down from generation to generation show that their ancestors, including the Ancient One as they call Kennewick Man, were the original inhabitants of North America.

"Our oral histories go back 10,000 years," said Armand Minthorn, of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, after the hearing.

Congress did not have any limit in time in mind when NAGPRA was written, said U.S. attorney Ellen Durkee. The Justice Department is backing the tribes.

But contextual information, such as artifacts found with bones, also could be considered to decide whether the bones are Native American or not, she said.

"Wasn't that problem caused by the Army Corps of Engineers?" asked Ronald Gould, one of the judges hearing the case. The Corps buried the embankment where the bones likely were buried before they washed into the Columbia River under tons of rock in 1998.

Attorneys for scientists believe that the tribes bear the burden of proving that remains have a biological or cultural connection to modern American Indians. NAGPRA requires that remains be returned to tribes if they can "show cultural affiliation by a preponderance of the evidence..."

The tribes do not object to testing, Minthorn said.

"With Kennewick Man, tests were done without our permission," he said after the hearing. "We are not against science. We are not against technology. But technology should not dictate what is done and who makes the decisions."

The three-judge panel may not make a ruling for up to a year. Whatever decision, the losing side is likely to ask for a reconsideration by the entire 9th Circuit Appeals Court. Ultimately the case could end up before the U.S. Supreme Court.



Book review: Doug Owsley, the bone man

No Bone Unturned, by Jeff Benedict, HarperCollins, 304 pages, \$26.

Members of ASM are fortunate in having had several opportunities to get to see Smithsonian forensic anthropologist Doug Owsley in action. At several ASM functions, he has conducted bone seminars. Behind the scenes, he went to the Winslow Site this summer to offer clues about the body found buried there.

The story of Owsley's remarkable career is told by Jeff Benedict in his new book, "No Bone Unturned: The Adventures of a Top Smithsonian Forensic Scientist and the Legal Battle for America's Oldest Skeletons."

The "and" in the subtitle is important, for in addition to reporting on highlights of Owsley's career, the book devotes serious space to the fight over the Kennewick Man's bones and Owsley's key role in that sorry affair.

In the pre-Kennewick section of the book, Benedict relates one Owsley tie to Maryland, his work with the lead coffin burials found in St. Mary's City. Owsley also has worked with various federal departments and universities in bone identification, serving at crime scenes, at atrocity sites overseas in such places as Guatemala and Bosnia, and in archeological investigations.

"Arguably, no one in the world today has handled more skeletons than Owsley, more than 10,000 in all," Benedict writes. "He reads bones like most people read books. His vision is extremely rare. While we may see just a bone, he sees a story, a glimpse into the past."

One thing that makes Owsley different is his approach to his work: "To Doug, his job was not work. It was an excellent and never-ending adventure He was consumed by the pursuit of knowledge, and his job provided him with the chance to go after it."

Owsley's work fell into two areas, modern bodies and archeology: "Whenever a law enforcement agency called Owsley, the news was bad. He never got called when people died naturally....," Benedict says. "On the other hand, good news and a sense of excitement and intrigue accompanied the discovery of older remains."

Benedict writes story with a wonderful eye for detail that makes the book highly readable. But where does all this detail come from? In conducting his long list of interviews, he must have asked many questions about minor details. He was not present at most of the incidents described because he only became interested in this project in 1999, long after most of the action had taken place.

At first, he says, he had planned to write about the Kennewick Man controversy, but in talking to people he realized he had another fine subject in Owsley, so he shifted focus.

Still, his recount of the Kennewick battle takes up more than half the book. A law school graduate, Benedict concentrates on the legal skirmishing and hearings. Unlike much legal writing, this account combines detailed information with effortless reading.

Further, by talking about Owsley's extensive work with Indian skeletons and the revelations he has come up with, Benedict demolishes the canard that the Kennewick scientists were engaged on an anti-Indian campaign.

"Kennewick Man, perhaps more than any discovery on American soil, promised to answer questions about America's first inhabitants. Yet the Justice Department was attempting to stifle Smithsonian scientists by threatening to prosecute them [for wanting to fight the repatriation]," he writes. At one time, Owsley and colleague Dennis Stanford were even threatened with being fired from the Smithsonian for pursuing the case.

In fact, the situation was so ridiculous that while the government on the one hand was arguing in court that Owsley shouldn't be trusted to examine the bones, on the other hand it was calling on him to conduct important bone studies for it.

Owsley, his lawyers and the people who joined the suit, prevailed in August, 2002, when Judge John Jelderks ruled against the government. An appeal is being heard.

"Five years earlier he [Owsley] had decided on his own to launch the fight to save Kennewick Man. That single decision had grown into an epic legal battle that pitted him against the combined forces of the Justice Department, the Interior Department, the Army Corps of Engineers, five Indian tribes, and the White House," Benedict summarizes.

Benedict's book gives us a taste of Owsley the man, Owsley the scientist, Owsley the fighter. For his scientific skill, we should be amazed. For his fight to study Kennewick Man, we should be more than grateful.

-- Reviewed by Myron Beckenstein

Pocahontas' links to site strengthened

By Frank D. Roylance

Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, June 27, 2003

Virginia archeologists digging on a York River farm say they have found tantalizing clues to buttress their belief that they've found the 17th-century stronghold of Powhatan, paramount chief of the Virginia Tidewater Indians, and home to his daughter Pocahontas.

Hundreds of pottery shards, stone arrowheads and bits of copper found since the dig, which ends today, can be dated to the period around the arrival of English settlers at Jamestown in 1607, archeologists said.

More importantly, the dig has uncovered a 25-foot segment of a long, curving pair of parallel ditches - perhaps part of a defensive structure and a hint that this was Werowocomoco, Powhatan's headquarters, and not an ordinary Indian village.

"They're very large and highly unusual for native settlements in this region," said Martin D. Gallivan, assistant professor of anthropology at the College of William and Mary. "We feel they may have something to do with the special identity of this site as the capital of the Powhatan paramountcy. They're at the top of our research questions for the next field season."

According to legend, Werowocomoco was the spot where Pocahontas intervened with her father to spare the life of Capt. John Smith, military leader of the Jamestown colony.

The precise location of Powhatan's capital has been a mystery since the Indians abandoned it in 1609. But Bob and Lynn Ripley's 300-acre farm near Gloucester, 16 miles north of Jamestown, has long been regarded as a likely spot.

Virginia archeologists dug their first test pits there last year after Lynn Ripley showed them a large collection of Indian artifacts she had been picking out of the dirt for years. After forming the Werowocomoco Research Group in concert with the Virginia Department of Historical Resources and the Virginia Council on Indians, archeologists and students from William and Mary began work at four promising locations May 27.

One, about 300 feet from the river, yielded a rich lode of stone tools, pipe fragments and ceramics. They were dated to the Late Woodland period, from A.D. 900 to 1607, and the subsequent

period of early European contact. The work also uncovered postmolds - soil stains suggesting the location of a long-vanished Indian structure.

Lynn Ripley, who has been helping on the dig, said she turned up a broken Indian pipe bowl. "It was a beautiful color, a reddish bronzy color that darkens where it was burned," she said.

She also found an arrowhead made of jasper, a precious stone not native to the area, a sign of long-distance Indian trading.

In a nearby cornfield, diggers uncovered artifacts that apparently survived undisturbed beneath a foot or more of soil stirred by centuries of plowing.

"That result in the cornfield is exciting because archeologists can learn quite a good deal from an intact, unplowed cultural horizon," Gallivan said.

But the most exciting finds for archeologists were the parallel ditches uncovered in a pasture about 800 feet from the river. Three feet wide and at least a foot deep, the filled ditches were dated to the same period by the stone and ceramic artifacts they contained. They extended for at least 25 feet and appeared to continue beyond the limits of the excavation. They seemed to curve slightly, as if they once enclosed something.

"Typically, we don't find village settlements that extend that far back from the river," Gallivan said. The ditches' unusual location and the huge amount of labor they represent may signal that this was a town of special status.

Gallivan said the ditches may have served as the base of a wooden palisade.

There was no mention of a palisade in Smith's descriptions of Werowocomoco, but a 1608 map by a Spanish ambassador, Don Pedro de Zuniga, seems to show a large, D-shaped structure around the town.

"We're a little surprised by it," Gallivan said. "It's possible that we have a site in which archeology can contribute something remarkably new that the written record is silent about."

Full-scale excavations are expected to resume next spring.

At home with Pocahontas

By Patricia Meisol

Condensed from The Baltimore Sun, May 21, 2003

GLOUCESTER, Va. - Lynn Ripley is on a beaten path near the York River explaining why she no longer searches for artifacts when something catches her eye.

"I spoke too soon," she says as she bends down to retrieve a fingernail-size piece of creamware. Holding it to the light, she guesses it's 18th century, maybe 1760s. "But don't quote me," she says. "I'm a novice."

Much of what Ripley has found on her 300-acre property along the river in Virginia has come through luck, she says: Being in the right place when the sun hits, sometimes after a rain, when the dirt has been washed away. Long ago, as a mother of three boys stepping over mislaid toys, she began keeping an eye to the ground.

This was one way Ripley helped discover that her property is probably the site of the lost 17th-century village of Indian Chief Powhatan and his famous daughter, Pocahontas.

Along the bluffs on a plateau high above the York River, where Ripley can look down to the shoreline of Purtan Bay where her husband, Bob, installed 500-pound rocks to save the marshes, the view is breathtaking.

"You can see why somebody important would want to live here," Ripley says.

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The clues were there all along. Since the 1800s, with the discovery of a map drawn by Jamestown colonist Capt. John Smith, the village of the great Algonquian Chief Powhatan was known to be on Purtan Bay, somewhere between two creeks.

Ripley's land is between two creeks on the bay, too.

That it might be the lost village of Werowocomoco was mentioned in the literature provided by a real estate agent when Ripley and her husband bought the land in 1996. But other property owners on the bay claimed that, too, and the possible historic value was not the reason they were drawn to it.

The property is beautiful, and it is private. On three sides the land is surrounded by water. The Ripleys are outdoors people. Lynn Ripley, 57, enjoys the wildflowers. Her husband, 59, a retired lawyer and developer, had wanted a place his whole life where he could step outside his door and go hunting.

As Ripley began clearing the land, she noticed broken glass in many places: by the walnut grove, in the fields, along the river. One day she found her first artifact: a piece of pottery, about 2 inches long, 1 1/2 inches wide, brownish blue with white stripes. It was sitting on the ground by a tree.

Then she found her first arrowhead, beige with dark markings. She brought it inside, hollering to her husband, "Look what I found!"

Then came a tiny piece of Indian pottery.

The sunlight reflecting on something brown caught her attention, she recalls. When she looked down, she saw it had lines on it, like someone had taken a fork and dragged it over the clay. "I don't think that's bark," she said. Picking it up, she turned it over and felt a smooth surface, an unnatural curve. She put it into the little basket she normally filled with homemade jam and gave away at Christmas, the basket she had begun carrying whenever she went outside to pick up downed limbs or weed the blackberry vines.

Sometimes, the things she found were lying on the dirt, a bare spot in weeds or woods. Sometimes they were hidden, as in the pictures she enjoyed as a child, the ones where she had to find the thing that didn't belong. Back then, she was always making mud pies. The youngest of three and the only girl, she was prissy and spoiled, a tomboy. Being outdoors all her life, she knew there was no such thing as a straight line in nature. "This is the tip of something," she said, reaching down to find what turned out to be a 3-inch gray arrowhead.

She was hooked.

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Ripley stored her earliest arrowheads in shoeboxes. When she ran out of shoeboxes, she bought three fishing-lure boxes. Then, three more. Soon she had dozens.

She separated pottery by colors, red inside from red outside, black from blue, pink from beige, dark gray

Continued on next page

At home with Pocahontas (cont.)

from light gray, and put them into zipped plastic bags. It would turn out to be a waste of time. Glass reverted to sand, she learned, and a single piece of pottery could have many shades.

"What in the world are you going to do with all this junk?" her husband asked. "What are you saving it for?"

She didn't know. Some people collected thimbles, others collected cups. Ripley loved looking at her artifacts. She showed them to visitors.

On rainy days when she couldn't go out, she played with her finds at the dining room table. She'd lay everything out and try to piece together pottery or glass. Often the pieces she matched had been found all over the property, scattered by plows over 300 years of farming. Pieces with a neck, handle, or an unusual base caught her attention. One was a green square. Using it and other green pieces, she reassembled a hand-blown wine bottle. Case bottles, they were called; they broke less than round ones when they were packed in cases and shipped from England.

It was obvious, from all the arrowheads and pottery Ripley found, that Indians had lived on the land and, at first, she and her husband joked. "Powhatan could have eaten out of this," she'd say. Or, admiring the white clay pipes she found, "I wonder if John Smith smoked these."

It wasn't until September 2001 that Ripley and her husband looked at each other and thought, "Oh, boy, this could be significant."

The Gloucester area had been surveyed in the early 1970s, and local archeologists were contacting homeowners to see if they wanted copies of field notes from the unfinished project. Ripley said yes. She was sitting on the porch talking with the archeologists - David Brown, Thane Harpole and Anthony Smith - when they asked to see her collection of artifacts.

When she opened her workshop to show them what she had collected, no one spoke. Slowly, they passed pieces back and forth. It wasn't only the amount of Native American pottery she had found that amazed them, one of them, Harpole, would say, but the large size of the pieces. Could they be from Powhatan's village? They asked to bring in a friend, E. Randolph Turner III, an expert on early American Indians.

Turner, a regional director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, had been studying Virginia archeology for 30 years and for most of that time, he'd been trying to get on this property. Whenever he came, nobody was home.

When he stepped from his car, Turner was wearing a big smile. The site was exactly what he imagined it would look like, the couple recall him saying. It was a setting worthy of a man who ruled what was then the most complex entity in northeastern North America.

Powhatan's two temples nearby were similarly placed high on a cliff above the water. Coastal Virginia was mostly flat, so the dramatic landscape conveyed power, especially to those approaching by water.

Ripley pulled out an arrowhead, which Turner identified as from the Late Woodland period - the time leading up to the arrival of the English. He was explaining how it differed from those made in the time before Christ when she pulled a second arrowhead from another box. "Like this?"

She showed him some pipe fragments, which he admired and suggested were European. She pulled out a larger pipe stem she kept in a box of junk. She guessed it was more recent, and had dismissed it as not as important. Turner stared and stared. It was from the Woodland period, he told her, and clearly Indian.

Later, when the chiefs of five of the eight Indian tribes in Virginia came to visit her, one of them would pick up the pipe and try to imagine Powhatan smoking it.

She wracked her brain to remember things she might have thrown away. If she found so much on top of the soil, what lay beneath it?

Ripley and her husband expect to grow old and die on this land. They thought long and hard about making the find public, but decided they couldn't hide it. Besides, she says, they have been so fortunate in their lives, and they believe in giving back.

In the spring and summer last year, with the Ripleys paying the bill, local archeologists dug 603 pits on a 50-acre section of the land. They found artifacts in 510 of them.

Ripley's thousands of specimens, with the early maps, confirmed to the archeologists that this was the site of the lost village, the only place where Powhatan and Smith had walked together.

Ripley now kept everything she found and, to protect it, she bought matching refrigerator-sized safes, each with a plate-sized wheel for a handle.

It wasn't just Indian stuff, either. In old cigar boxes, she stored relics from later inhabitants: buckles from shoes or pants, a coin, a wedding ring, scraps of copper, parts of English guns, harmonicas and white lead bullets, one of them bitten by a soul in medical distress. She had cigar boxes of wrought nails.

In her lab - that's what she calls the woodworking shop now - she's changed the type of glue she uses to piece together her finds, and added a toothbrush for cleaning arrowheads, picks for pipe stems. She keeps a book handy to help identify colonial artifacts. Last week, there were probably five dozen pieces she's found in the past few weeks waiting to be sorted and washed.

Next week, at the Ripleys' invitation, 16 students, four doctoral candidates and some professors from the College of William and Mary will pitch tents on the property (the women among them get to move into an old farmhouse) to begin five weeks of summer field study. They will dig and map 5-by-5-foot squares in the hope of finding posts and other signs of a home befitting a great chief. Ripley finds it overwhelming, but she's surprised at how calmly she's handling it.

"It's not going to be a zoo out here," she says. "There won't be thousands of people. It's a slow process. Maybe they'll find something specific and maybe not. Maybe they will find only stains in the dirt."

She has accepted the college's invitation to audit classes in archeology in the fall. "I love it," she says. "I should have been doing it all my life." Originally, she had wanted to be an anthropologist, the kind that digs in the dirt. In her fantasy, she was in Peru, discovering remains of Incan pyramids. Marriage and family interfered with her college plans.

Walking on her driveway one recent day she picked up a piece of old gravel because she saw it was pointy on one end. She picks up everything now.

"You never know," she says.

Precious artifact recovered in Iraq

By The Associated Press, September 18, 2003

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The Lady of Warka, one the two most precious relics looted from the Iraqi National Museum in the chaos that followed the April 9 fall of Baghdad, has been recovered by U.S. soldiers and Iraqi police, the head of Iraq's Antiquities Department said today.

The 3,200-year-old artifact, which is a representation of female face, was found buried in an orchard on the outskirts of Baghdad after the Antiquities Department was tipped off by people who had reported seeing it.

Director Jabir Ibrahim said his department received information in mid-August about a group of people trying to sell the Lady of Warka. The negotiations collapsed for unknown reasons and the relic was subsequently hidden in the orchard, Ibrahim said.

The artifact, from the ancient city of Warka in southern Iraq, was recovered on Sep. 16 in a joint operation conducted by U.S. military police and Iraqi police.

Thousands of relics were ransacked from the museum in the chaos after U.S. troops entered the Iraqi capital, including two of the museum's masterpieces: the Lady of Warka and the 5,200-year-old Vase of Warka, the world's oldest carved-stone ritual vessel. The vase was returned by unidentified men in June -- shattered, though experts hope to piece it back together.

The looting and destruction in April triggered deep criticism of U.S. forces both in Iraq and abroad. Museum curators and archeologists worldwide said the United States should have protected the precious treasures, dating to the earliest days of settled human history.

Some looted items have been recovered under a no-questions-asked amnesty program, while others were found in raids or in government vaults where they had been put for safekeeping. Ibrahim said, however, that Iraqi authorities had recovered only about 2,000 of 13,000 looted treasures.

The museum, still closed, is now guarded by the Iraqi police forces that work under the supervision of the U.S. military. A gallery of artifacts from the Assyrian era is expected to reopen soon.

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

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

October 15: Elizabeth Ragan will present "Over the Sea to Argyll: Seeking the First Scots."

November 19: Richard Hughes will present Benjamin Banneker and the MHT.

December: No meeting.

January 21: Charlie Hall will speak about rock shelters in Tennessee.

February 18: Susan Langley will speak on historical textiles.

March 17: Elizabeth Ragan will return to present "Celtic: More Than Just a Basketball Game."

Central

Phone Stephen Israel at 410- 945-5514 evenings, 410-962-0685 day, or ssisrael@abs.net, for information.

An archeological exhibit, planned and assembled by Central Chapter, on the UMBC prehistoric site excavated by Karen Vitelli in 1971 and 1972 opens to the public in the UMBC Library Gallery on October 8th. The site is a rare stratified site located in the Maryland Piedmont and Coastal Plain Fall Line and covers 8,000 years of prehistory. For more on activities related to the exhibit, see calendar on Page 2.

Mid-Potomac

Contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org or call them, 301-948-5053.

Monocacy

Meets the Wednesday closest to the 15th of each month at the Walkersville Middle School. Contact Joy Hurst at 301-663-6706 or email hurst_joy@hotmail.com. Website: www.digfrederick.org

Northern Chesapeake

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

October 9: Christianne Henry on "Sudan: Expedition for Egyptian Art." At Havre de Grace Middle School, 7.

November 13: Joe Dent will present a tribute to Turkey Tayak, Piscataway Chief. At the Maritime Museum. 7.

December 11: Covered dish dinner at Harford Glen. Stephen Potter of the National Park Service will speak.

January 8, 2004: Steve Bilicki of the MHT on Susquehanna Underwater Survey. Maritime Museum. 7.

February 12: Don Robinson on "History of Delta", at the Harford Historical Society House. 7.

March 11: Paul Nevin on the Safe Harbor Petroglyph Survey. Harford Glen. 7

April 3: Symposium: "Where have the Archeologists Gone?" Harford Glen.

May 23: Annual picnic. Broad Creek.

Southern

Meetings 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 for information.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of each month at Mt. Ida, near the court house in Ellicott City. Contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or maurice_preston@clc.hcpss.org

October 13: Dinner in Ellicott City at the Tiber River Cafe at 6. Business meeting at 7:30 at Mt. Ida followed by "In Search of the Aegean" by Jacob Yates.

November 10: Dinner at 6 at the Tiber River Cafe. Business meeting at 7:30 at Mt Ida, followed by "12,000 Sites in Maryland" by Charlie Hall, state terrestrial archeologist.

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 Website - www.geocities.com/wmdasm

October 24: Cresaptown Site Revisited, latest findings and interpretations, by Dana Kollmann.

November 28: Braddock Road Update, by Bob Bantz. Bonus: Hands-on program: Cordage Making the Aboriginal Way.

December: Holiday break - No meeting

January 23: Annual Social and "Show and Tell"--*You* are the program.

Fall Meeting Registration Form

Name: _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Additional names in party _____

Lunch: provided at the cost below or please bring your own.

Number in party: _____ x \$4 advance registration \$ _____
(\$6 after October 10th or at door)

Number for lunch: _____ x \$7 \$ _____
____ Check here if vegetarian preferred

Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to Southern Chapter ASM and return this form and payment to:

Southern Chapter ASM, Inc., PO Box 875, Solomons, Maryland 20688

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.

Submissions welcome, please send to Myron Beckenstein, 9256 Feathered Head, Columbia, MD 21045, myronbeck@aol.com, (410) 381-9115.

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