



ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Fall meeting: archeology without borders

The northeastern area of Maryland is both the location and the focus of this year's annual meeting. And not only will Harford and Cecil counties be highlighted, but participants also will hear about goings-on in Delaware and southeastern Pennsylvania.

The meeting takes place Saturday, October 17, at the Maritime Museum in Havre de Grace. Doors open at 8:30 with the business meeting starting at 9. After a break, the talks begin at 10:30.

The first speaker is David Clark of the Delaware Department of Transportation Archaeology Program who will discuss two projects. One is the prehistoric Frederica north site, one of the largest sites his agency has excavated. The other is the work preceding the expansion of 15 miles of Route 301 from the Maryland line eastward.

The annual Frederick L. Stiner Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Northern Chesapeake Chapter stalwart Bill McIntyre, who will talk about Havre de Grace's Concord Point lighthouse, one of the oldest structures in the town. Built in 1827, it and the keeper's house were in service for almost 100 years before assuming other uses. The Northern Chesapeake Chapter did fieldwork on the site from 1992 to 2008.

Chapter President Ann Persson will start the afternoon talks off with a look at the archeology of the 1800 Susquehanna canal, one of America's first artificial waterways. Chapter work on the locks near Octoraro Creek found three building foundations and hundreds of artifacts.

From Pennsylvania, Don Robinson will give an update on attempts to restore the early Welsh slateworkers' cottages in Coulsontown. The project provided insights into the culture of the early residents.

The focus returns to Havre de Grace for Gary Wasielewski's talk on the history and archeology of Cedar Hill Cemetery, a burial ground from the 1830s until the 1940s. Believed to be buried in unmarked graves are two Civil War soldiers and the fallen from the Great Depression. Volunteers from AmeriCorps, as well as Boy Scouts and students from the speaker's high school archeology class, have worked on the project.

Finally, Dan Coates will wrap up the day's events with some remarks on the culture of the Upper Chesapeake region.

The Havre de Grace Maritime Museum is at 100 Lafayette Street. Admission to the meeting is free, but a donation to the museum is encouraged. A deli lunch can be ordered for \$5. A tour of the museum will be available during the lunch break.

An insert in this newsletter gives the complete program and also directions to the museum.

Any old ASM journals you would like to donate to the Society? Bring them to the meeting. All issues are welcome.

Upcoming events

October 17: Annual ASM Meeting, Havre de Grace Maritime Museum. See insert with this newsletter.

January 6 - 9, 2010: Society for Historical Archaeology annual meeting, Amelia Island Plantation, near Jacksonville, Florida.

April 14 - 18, 2010: Society for American Archeology annual meeting, St. Louis.

Volunteer opportunities

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

Montgomery County is offering opportunities for lab and 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 have finished upgrading the ASM field school collection. They will soon start work on the Rosenstock (Frederick County) plow zone material. The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. Contact Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall chall@mdp.state.md.us.

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County. 410-222-7440.

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 Ed Chaney at echaney@mdp.state.md.us or 410-586-8554.

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

CAT corner

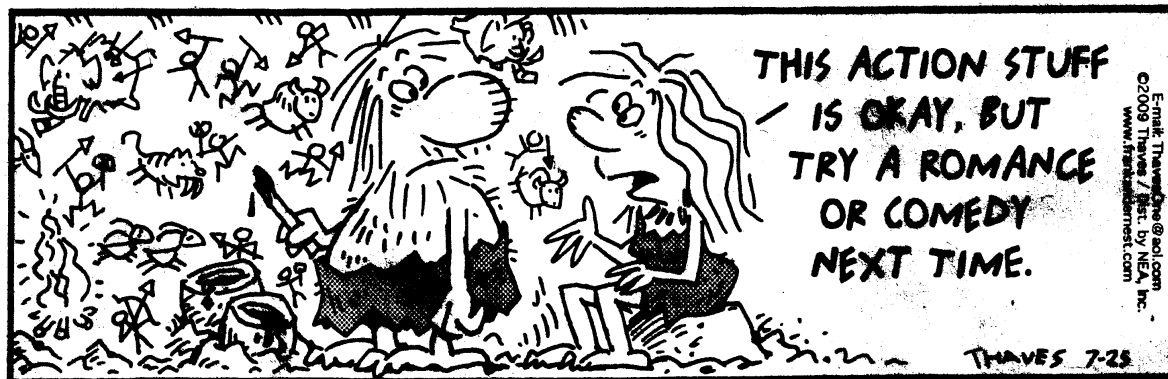
A prehistoric overview class will be presented at the Annual Workshop in Archeology at Crownsville on March 7, 2009.

For updates and information on other CAT activities check the ASM website.

A website is available to candidates and graduates: <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/MDcat/>. To join the group email MDcat-subscribe@yahooogroups.com. Members can choose to get emails or just use the website to send messages. Courtesy of CAT candidate Tom Forhan.

FRANK AND ERNEST

BOB THAVES



La Plata exhibit seen as model for state

By Patricia Samford

Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory

The Maryland Historical Trust and the Charles County Department of Economic Development and Tourism recently collaborated on an exhibit that showcases two archeological sites from the county's early European settlement period.

This exhibit, meant to be a model for other Maryland counties, showcases local and state history through artifacts curated at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory in St. Leonard.

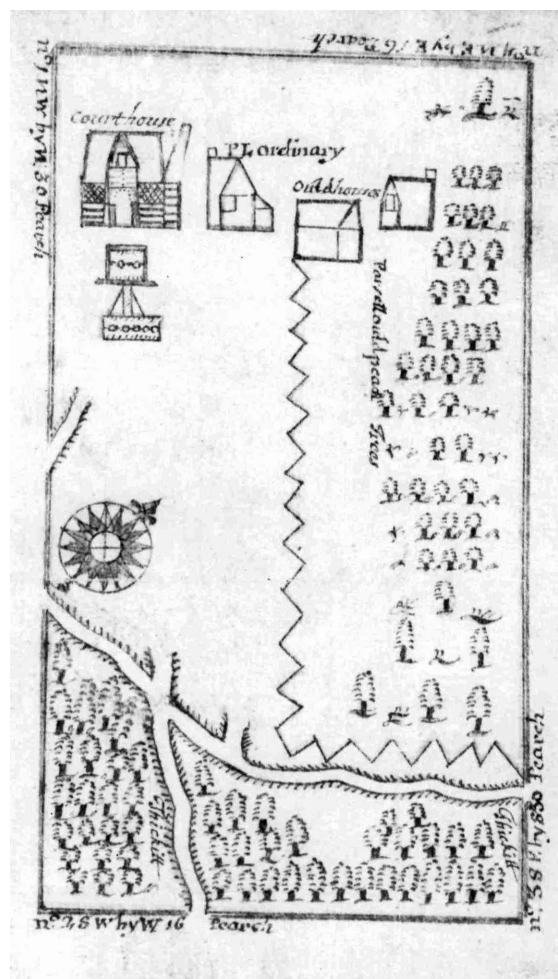
The long term goal is to place archeological exhibits in every county in Maryland, providing residents all over the state with greater access to the archeological collections owned by the state and promoting a greater understanding of Maryland history.

The Charles County exhibit was developed by College of Southern Maryland student Mark Posey using IMPART internship funds, with assistance from Scott Strickland and the staff at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum.

Artifacts from a Native American site occupied from 1650 to 1680 provided important data on how the lives of Native Americans might have been influenced by contact with Europeans. The Posey Site, located on Naval Support Facility Indian Head, was first discovered after an explosion in 1957 revealed evidence of Indian settlements. Since that time, investigators have recovered more than 11,000 items, including artifacts and animal bones.

The other part of the exhibit focuses on the successful 2008 search for Charles County's first courthouse. Armed with a predictive model based on genealogical research and land records, a team of archeologists from St. Mary's College of Maryland with support from Jefferson Patterson investigated 66 acres of land south of La Plata. The work revealed the location of the 1674 courthouse, as well as an associated tavern.

The exhibit, which will be officially opened at a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for Sept. 30, will be on display indefinitely at the Charles County Governmental Building, 200 Baltimore Street in La Plata. The public is invited to view the exhibit Monday through Friday, 8-4:30.



1697 platt map shows courthouse at upper right.

Barney's flotilla may be unearthed

By Steve Vogel

Condensed from the Washington Post, September 14, 2009

Aboard a pontoon boat chugging past the marshland of Maryland's upper Patuxent River on a recent Saturday, Ralph Eshelman pointed to the spot where the muddy brown water hides a shipwreck nearly two centuries old, part of the American flotilla that defended the Chesapeake Bay when the British burned Washington during the War of 1812.

Nearly 30 years ago, Eshelman helped direct a team of marine researchers who discovered the wreck, one of the war's most significant artifacts.

After a limited, month-long excavation of the site east of Upper Marlboro in 1980, the wreck was reburied under four feet of mud and sediment to protect it from decay. The hope was that archeologists with more funding could one day return to excavate the 75-foot vessel, tentatively identified as the *Scorpion*, flagship of Commodore Joshua Barney's Chesapeake Flotilla. Now, supporters are hoping the time is ripe.

The Navy, which still owns the flotilla, is considering whether to excavate the site and possibly raise the vessel as part of its plans to commemorate the bicentennial of the War of 1812.

"It's on the agenda to be discussed," said Capt. Patrick Burns, director of Navy commemorations, who is leading the Navy's plans for remembering the war with a three-year-long series of events beginning in 2012. "There are a lot of ideas being bantered about."

"It's an important part of history," said Robert Neyland, head of the Navy's Underwater Archaeology Branch at the Naval History and Heritage Command at the Washington Navy Yard.

In July, archeologists with the office surveyed the site with a magnetometer and thought they identified the wreck's exact location. The vessel, which is under about five feet of water, "very well could be intact," said George Schwarz, a Navy archeologist who participated in the survey.

If funding can be found, archeologists might build a coffer dam around the site, which would allow water to be pumped out and excavation to be done in a dry environment, said Neyland, who directed the recovery of the Confederate submarine *Hunley* from South Carolina's Charleston Harbor in 2000.

"It's very likely that more vessels are buried under marsh like this, and if so, their preservation could be spectacular," said Eshelman.

In the summer of 1813, Barney, a Revolutionary War naval hero, proposed building a flotilla of shallow-draft gunboats and barges that could harass the British, whose far-larger warships controlled the Chesapeake Bay and who were raiding plantations and small towns at will. After being assembled in Baltimore, the flotilla set sail in the spring of 1814, clashing with the British at St. Leonard's Creek in June and escaping up the Patuxent.

The British advanced up the Patuxent in August 1814 and landed an invasion force, trapping Barney's flotilla in the river's upper reaches. Under orders, Barney scuttled the fleet with rigged explosives just ahead of the British. He escaped with most of his men and cannons to defend Washington and they played a heroic but ultimately futile role in trying to stop the British.

"We think we have the Holy Grail," said J. Rodney Little, chief historical preservation officer for the state of Maryland, which wants to partner with the federal government to assess the site.

This month, the Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program turned down the state's request for about \$300,000, leaving the state and the archeologists to hope that the Navy or another federal agency will support the project.

The cost of the project would depend largely on its scale, with an attempt to raise the entire vessel far costlier than a more limited excavation. Moreover, the price of conserving what is raised would likely be significantly more than the excavation, so without guaranteed funding, the flotilla should be left alone, archeologists said.

The 1980 excavation raised more than 150 artifacts. After the artifacts were preserved, most were kept at the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, which co-sponsored the search. Last year, asserting ownership, the Navy took possession of most of the pieces, leaving about 30 on loan with the museum.

A look at SHA's chief archeologist

By Nancy Jones-Bonbrest

Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, August 2, 2009

How she got started: Growing up in Minnesota, Julie Schablitsky first became interested in archeology at the age of seven. She went on her first dig at the age of 15 and at the age of 18 began working as an archeologist for the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service during the summers.

She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in anthropology and a master's degree from Oregon State University in anthropology. She earned a doctorate in urban studies with an emphasis in urban archeology from Portland State University.

She worked as an archeologist for the Oregon Department of Transportation and taught archeology for the University of Oregon before moving to Maryland and taking the job with the State Highway Administration.

Typical day: Schablitsky oversees 12 archeologists and architectural historians who study planned state transportation projects to determine if they will affect archeological sites or historic structures.

She works to identify and manage these cultural resources during all phases of project development. Of the many highway projects, Schablitsky says only about two archeological sites a year require full excavation. "I'm part of the project planning team," Schablitsky said. "Based on the plans given, we determine what resources might be in the path of destruction."

Historic maps, Geographic Information System data layers and published reports are the first step in determining the presence of cultural resources within the construction area. She often works with consultants who are hired to excavate the sites.

Schablitsky must also decide if a site has enough resources and context to warrant a full-scale study. "Not everything needs to be saved," she said. "Every archeologist is looking for whether or not a site can give you a story."

Much of her job is done from her desk, managing the work of her staff, guiding policy for the cultural resources section of the SHA, dealing with budget issues, reviewing reports and keeping projects on schedule. She often meets with members of the public to advise them on state cultural preservation practices. About 20 percent of her time is spent in the field supervising and participating in state archeological projects.

She helped carry out three programs that focus on historic bridges, Native American consultation and public outreach. She said she must balance preserving the state's heritage and cultural resources with the need to move state transportation projects forward.

Best find in Maryland: While working on the Inter-County Connector project, an undisturbed 19th-Century African-American farmstead was discovered. Schablitsky called the site, known as the Jackson Homestead, an "archeologist's dream" because so many artifacts were found providing insight on life immediately after the Civil War.

Additional research: Schablitsky still has an affiliation with the Oregon university and has continued her research on the site of the ill-fated Donner Party in the Sierra Nevada of California, as well as on the birthplace of naval hero John Paul Jones in Scotland. Two years ago, she edited and contributed to the book "Box Office Archaeology: Refining Hollywood's Portrayals of the Past."

Television show: Schablitsky is a member of Time Team America, a new science reality series on PBS that sends a team of archeologists throughout the country excavating historic sites.

The good: The interdisciplinary aspect of working with the many divisions within the SHA to guide a state project. As the chief archeologist on that team, she gets to be a part of what she calls the big picture. "So as an archeologist, I can make a difference."

The bad: Budget constraints. "I've had to make a lot of hard decisions."

Philosophy on the job: In managing her staff she tries to determine what their strengths are and create opportunities for them to excel. "That's how you end up with a supportive group of people who feel like a family."

Have an idea for new Capt. John Smith trail?

The National Park Service is trying to get the public involved in planning the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

A series of eight public sessions are planned, three of them in Maryland, three in Virginia, one in Delaware and one in DC. The Maryland meetings are in Annapolis, St. Michaels and Havre de Grace. They and the DC meeting all take place between October 14 and 22.

To be discussed are different ways the project can be presented, objectives and policies. Park staffers also will be collecting ideas from the public.

Specific information, including meeting sites, is available at www.smithtrail.net and look under Public Planning Workshops.

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

Meeting five times a year in February, April, June, September and November, the chapter has a new meeting location: Severna Park Branch of the Anne Arundel County Public Library, 45 McKinsey Road. 7:30 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito at AACHapASM@hotmail.com or visit the chapter website www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php

Nov. 3: Speaker TBA

Central

Central Chapter has no formal meetings planned, but it does engage in field work and related activities. Contact chapter President Stephen Israel, 410-945-5514 or ssisrael@verizon.net

Charles County

Meetings are held 7:30 on the second Tuesday (September-May) at the Port Tobacco Court House. Contact President Paula Martino at paulamartino@hotmail.com or 301-752-2852.

Oct. 13: Julie King.

Nov. 10: Ed Chaney talking on "Ye dwelling house wherein the plaintiff's grandfather lived:" Excavations on an early 18th Century plantation.

Dec. 8: Jim Gibb will look at "Port Tobacco 2009: Four New Questions for Each New Answer."

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Agricultural History Farm Park Activity Center in Derwood. Dinner at a local restaurant is at 6. Monthly lab nights are the first Thursday of the month. Contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org, or call 301-840-5848 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: www.asmmidpotomac.wordpress.com

Oct. 15: Lynne Bulhack on work done at Point Lookout, prehistoric ceramics.

Nov. 19: Cindy Pfanstiehl, anthropology professor at Montgomery College-Rockville, on the Miles House in Little Bennett Regional Park.

Dec. 17: Holiday party

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Contact Jeremy Lazelle at 301-845-9855 or jlazelle@msn.com or Nancy Geasey at 301-378-0212.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month. Members and guests assemble at 6:30 p.m. for light refreshments. A business meeting at 7 is followed by the presentation at 7:30. Contact Ann Persson at 410-272-3425 or aspst20@yahoo.com Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

Oct. 17: Annual Meeting

Nov. 11: Dan Coates on "Ice House Display Visit" at Liriodendron Mansion.

Dec. 7: Bob Wheelersburg on "Washington Boro, Pennsylvania" at Harford Glen.

Jan. 13: Richard Hughes on heritage areas, at the Historical Society of Harford County.

Feb. 10: Speaker TBA, subject biblical archeology, at the Jewish Center in Havre de Grace.

March 10: John Seidel with an Eastern Shore prehistoric survey, at the Perryville Library.

April 16: Tim Riordan will deliver the Paul Cresthull Memorial Lecture on the St. Mary's City chapel and cemetery, at Harford Community College.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of every other month at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Ida, near the courthouse in Ellicott City. Potluck suppers are held at 6:15 in September and March. Otherwise, dinner is available at an Ellicott City restaurant. Contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or leeprestonjr@comcast.net

Nov. 9: Lee Preston, "Extreme Mammals: From Mole Rats to Bipeds, Let's Look at the 200 Million Year History of Mammals and Their Uniqueness."

Jan. 11: Steve Israel, "Report on the Rockdale Road Rockshelter: A Late Woodland Campsite."

March 8: Laura Cripps, "Report on Bibracte, a Romano-Celtic Temple Site in France " (excavated in 2009).

May 10: "The Brown's of Mt. Pleasant : 307 Years of Ownership in Howard County " or the 3rd Annual J. Alfred Prufrock History/Archaeology Team Competition Game."

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. Chapter email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: www.geocities.com/wmdasm

Oct. 23: Archeological geophysicist Timothy Horsley of the University of Michigan will report on this spring's magnetometer survey of the Barton Site.

Nov. 7: Field trip to Fort Ligonier, a French & Indian War era fortification in west central Pennsylvania.

December: No meeting scheduled due to the holidays.

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.

Submissions welcome. Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 6817 Pineway, University Park, MD 20782, 301-864-5289 or myronbeck@verizon.net

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