

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

Calverton field session right around corner

By Kirsti Uunila

Principal Investigator

During the 2017 field session, archeologists and volunteers began an intensive investigation of 18CV22, the first county seat of Calvert County in Southern Maryland. The town was the first in Calvert County, laid out in 1668, and surveyed by Robert Jones in 1682. Matt McKnight used GIS mapping tools to register the 1682 town plat over a modern aerial to guide last summer's excavation. Planning and effort were rewarded by convincing evidence that at last some remains of the 17th Century town are intact below the surface.

The field session will return to the Calverton site this year to continue the work. Three historic features were uncovered at the base of the plowzone last year: a shallow shell-filled trench with wrought nails in it; a round, ash-capped void and a large, amorphous pit filled with brick, shell and artifacts.

The first two were found in the area represented by two unidentified buildings on the 1682 plat. The large feature, which could be a cellar, was found in an area in which no building appears on the plat. The datable artifacts recovered are 18th Century so the building the feature may postdate the survey plat.

Archeologists and the ASM leadership have decided on a strategy for fieldwork which will likely meet the

Special events during the field session

The Spencer Geasey Memorial Lecture will be given the first Saturday, May 26. Underwater archeologist Troy Nowak will be the speaker. (Check the ASM website for the location and also for other updates on talks.)

He will also give lunchtime talks on site the following Sunday and Monday.

Arrangements are being made for other lunchtime talks.

The traditional Dig Feast will be Saturday, June 2, after the close of business.

enthusiastic approval of those who last year labored to count and weigh kilo after kilo of oyster-shell fragments.

Courtesy of Calvert County, a backhoe with a smooth bucket will draw back last year's backfill that covers the large feature, down to a few centimeters above the top of it. The remainder will be taken down by hand. The backhoe will also be used to uncover other areas. The spoil piles will be separated and will be screen-sampled. Only whole valves of shell will be counted and weighed.

Last year, the Maryland Maritime Archeology Program plied the shoreline during the field session and will return again to complete the underwater investigations. Troy Nowak's preliminary report detailed the results of the survey which covered 120 acres and mapped the historic shoreline using sonar and magnetometry. MMAP's Carolina Skiff will be at the McDougall's pier again this year and volunteers will be welcome to observe and assist in the work.

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Upcoming events

May 25 - June 4: Tyler Bastian Field Session, Calverton Site, Calvert County

October 13: ASM Annual meeting in Havre de Grace

November 1-4: Eastern States Archeological Federation annual meeting, Watertown, N.Y. esaf-archeology.org

Volunteer opportunities

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

ASM Tuesday Volunteer Lab: The lab in Crownsville has reopened after the mold problem was resolved. Contact Charlie Hall at Charles.Hall@MHT or Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net for information. Currently the lab is dealing with artifacts uncovered in Fells Point in Baltimore.

A volunteer opportunity is available at a 17 Century site in **Edgewater** in Anne Arundel County, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, with Jim Gibb jamesggibb@verizon.net and Laura Cripps lcripps@howardcc.edu under the auspices of the Smithsonian. There will be magnetometer training.

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 is accepting applications from for lab and field work volunteers. Contact Heather Bouslog 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 county sites. Weekdays only. Email volunteers@losttownsproject.org or call the lab at 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 Ed Chaney at ed.chaney@maryland.gov 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.

Upper Patuxent Archaeology Group/Howard County Recs and Parks invites volunteers interested in working on processing archaeological collections and conducting historical research to contact Kelly Palich at Kpalich@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-0423.

CAT corner:

For the latest CAT information see the ASM website or contact Belinda Urquiza at burquiza@comcast.net

Nominations sought for ASM offices

ASM is holding its election this year. Ballots will appear in the July newsletter and will be counted at the Annual Meeting in Havre de Grace October 13.

The offices are: president, vice president, secretary, membership secretary, treasurer and six at-large board members. If you'd like to be on the ballot, contact Myron Beckenstein at myronbeck@verizon.net



Scott Lawrence, led field school, dies at 55

By James A. Gibb

Scott D. Lawrence (55), known to the Society's membership mainly as the principal behind the field session at St. Francis Xavier chapel and cemetery in 2013, died in the early hours of April 17, 2018, from cancer. He leaves behind his parents, his wife Laurie, two children, a step-daughter and a grandson as well as many friends in the archeology community and in St. Mary's County where he spent most of his life.

Scott was a dear friend. We met at the St. Nicholas Cemetery onboard the Patuxent River Naval Air Station in St. Mary's County. He had promised his maternal grandfather that he would restore the cemetery where several of the family had been buried before the Department of the Navy acquired the entire farming community, of which St. Nicholas was a part, in 1942.

The Navy, after mapping each monument and recording vital information pushed over and buried all of the markers. Despite protracted resistance from the Navy and the Maryland Historical Trust, Scott received permission to locate, repair and re-erect 13 military veterans' markers...provided he secure the services of a professional archeologist to participate in the project. He picked me.

Together we completed the first task, got permission to do a few more, and then a few more, and then a lengthy hiatus, and finally permission to re-erect the rest of over 200 markers. Occasionally we had help, but mostly it was just the two of us striving to complete three or four a day on weekends and days that Scott had off from his job with Booz Allen Hamilton. It cost us seven years and for Scott, three hernia repairs and two shoulder operations almost certainly linked to our moving markers weighing from 50 pounds to at least half a ton.

The green lawn around St. Nicholas now looks the way it was intended—a community cemetery—and the markers local families purchased are again visible reminders of the lives they were intended to commemorate. Scott received several well-earned awards for his efforts.

During and since then, Scott worked with me on a number of my commercial archeology projects, renewing skills he acquired while working summers for the Historic St. Mary's City Commission during his teens. And he started his own company, Grave Concerns, securing marker repair and cemetery restoration projects on which we worked together.

His passion for the restoration, care and management of cemeteries was boundless.

The highlight of our professional collaborations was the multi-year project at St. Francis Xavier in Newtown, St. Mary's County. Initially, we mapped the cemetery for then-pastor Father Brian Sanderfoot in 2010 as part of a 350-year anniversary celebration for the parish. He told us that land records placed the

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original 1662 chapel in the still active cemetery and Scott responded, "Yea, we can find it."

And, yes, we did. Shovel tests recovered three or four artifacts in the south end of the cemetery that suggested a 17th-Century site. Several years of excavating—capped by the ASM field session in 2013—revealed evidence of both the chapel and a likely priest's house. We reported our findings in technical reports and in a paper published in the *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* in 2016.

Scott left us too soon...way too soon. My life is emptier without his. There were too many cemeteries left to restore, too many archeological sites to explore, too much fun to be had. Those who knew him at all were treated to his quirky sense of humor, his joy of life and his inimitable ability to create memories. (There is the episode of his failed attempt to adopt a grown pig, but that is best shared as Scott would have us share it: over bourbon.)

He penned his own obituary shortly before he died in which he tells us what he thought was important about himself and his life.

It has been said that one should treat their body as a temple. Scott Lawrence left his life [on April 17, 2018] treating it as an amusement park. He tried to make the most fun he could with the resources he had available and, for the most part, enjoyed his time here.

Part of that enjoyment was accidentally managing to reproduce himself by spawning two children in the form of a daughter Katherine Lawrence (of Lusby), son Douglas Lawrence (of St. Leonard with wife Pauline and now Mason and Gauge), Caitlin Ward (of Ohio) by his now wife Laurie Lawrence. He loved them all.

He is also survived by his brother John Lawrence (of Lexington Park), sister, Julie Lawrence (of Fairfax, Virginia), and parents Jack and Suzanne (Dameron). He is pre-deceased by his grandparents Douglas and Mildred Lawrence (of Florida) and his other grandparents David and Mary Hammett (Park Hall). Scott bought the Park Hall residence that his grandparents built in 1946 and has been renovating and living in it since 2013. He was brought to this home after being born at Patuxent River Naval Air station. Then the Lawrence family later moved to and thrived in St. Inigoes.

While living in St. Inigoes, Scott began to discover historic and pre-historic site on property and became quite interested in local and colonial history especially the graveyards that seemed to be ignored and neglected.

While land surveying was a noble pursuit, it didn't provide the income material needs he wanted so he decided that a higher education was needed and pursued and obtained a Bachelor's of Science degree. He got a job as a contractor at the air station when he discovered that the Navy had buried all the tombstones at St. Nicholas Cemetery. Scott's and other ancestors had been buried there for over 200 years.

It seemed unjust so he approached the Navy about a full restoration project. Reluctant at first, the Navy required that Scott obtain full certification in Cemetery Repair. After doing so and seven years later, the project was completed.

Prior to and during this time, Scott worked on and studied various archeological projects over the years including the discovery of the 1662 Chapel at St. Francis Xavier in Newtown, Maryland.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625 Leonardtown, MD 20650. [Services were held April 28.]

Class on first aid, CPR and AED being offered in May

Susan Langley, MHT's underwater archeologist, is offering a first aid, CPR and AED (Automated External Defibrillator) training on Friday, May 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at MHT in Crownsville. The cost is \$25 and the maximum class size is 12. If there is more interest, she will hold a second class on Saturday, May 12.

Email Susan for further information and/or sign-up for the class at Susan.Langley@maryland.gov

Calverton field session right around corner

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Alex Glass, environmental archeologist, will be onsite this field session to conduct flotation of feature samples in order to recover small floral and faunal remains and tiny artifacts. Alex encourages interested volunteers to learn about and do flotation.

Don and Jean McDougall have permitted us to return to the Calverton site. Please remember that we are guests of the McDougalls and their neighbors. The road in winds through a mile of the neighbors' property and we have all been reminded to observe a few rules: drive very slowly--5 mph--and carefully; farm equipment always has the right of way; pull over only in the gravel areas, not on the grassy edge where the ground can give way beneath your wheels.

Old diggers and new are welcome to come to Calverton for what promises to be a full and productive field session.

Yet another buried ship found in Alexandria

By Patricia Sullivan

Condensed from the Washington Post, April 13, 2018

Fifteen feet down in the muck, mud and sand, you can reach out and touch the remains of a ship, or three, that were so worn out by 1798 that they were scuttled to help create new land for Alexandria's thriving commercial port.

The wet wood was last dry when local resident George Washington had just retired from the presidency to nearby Mount Vernon, in a time before the invention of indoor plumbing, gas lighting or the steam locomotive.

Alexandria's top archeologist calls the recently discovered ships "one of the most archeologically significant sites in Virginia," particularly in an urban setting. They were uncovered last month by contract archeologists working on a townhouse and condominium project at Robinson Landing, along the Potomac River.

The largest and best-preserved portion of a ship, in clear view from Wolfe Street, was discovered March 29. It remains partially buried but looks to be about 25 feet wide and 46 feet long.

The other two ships, which are along the east side of the construction site and not visible from the street, were found March 9 and 16. They are about 12½ feet wide and have not yet been fully uncovered. A fourth ship was dug up a block north along the waterfront in January 2016 as the Hotel Indigo was being built.

Specialists from Thunderbird Archaeology also have unearthed about 100,000 artifacts — the foundation of a flour mill, coins from Ireland, England, France and Spain, pieces of ceramics, bottles and animal bones.

"We knew we'd find something, but three [ships] is over the top," said Dan Baicy, field director for Thunderbird.

The ships were probably ordinary merchant vessels, the archeologists said, although their reinforced futtocks (curved timber pieces forming the lower part of a ship's frame) could mean they carried heavy cargo or military gear.

They were used at the waterfront, along with bulkhead wharves, to contain soil and turn the original cove called Point Lumley into land that supported warehouses, mills and other commercial buildings.

The ships are being kept wet, because every moment they are exposed to dry air causes deterioration, said Eleanor Breen, acting city archeologist. The wood is soaked and covered at night. Once the original location has been documented, the timbers will be taken to a warehouse, where they will remain underwater until city officials decide what to do with them.

Alexandria is still raising money for the conservation of the Hotel Indigo ship, which residents swarmed to see in freezing weather as it was uncovered.

Book review: How geophysics makes an impact

Archaeological Remote Sensing in North America: Innovative Techniques for Anthropological Applications, edited by Duncan P. McKinnon and Bryan S. Haley. 2017, University of Alabama Press, 304 pages, \$60

In *Archaeological Remote Sensing in North America*, editors McKinnon and Haley have assembled a series of case studies demonstrating the application of geophysical techniques to a variety of archeological sites.

Leaving aside the technical details of the survey techniques, their primary purpose is to demonstrate the value of such surveys as a complement to traditional archeological practices. As such, the main focus is on projects which use geophysical testing to explicitly address questions of anthropological significance, such as community patterning, use of space, and organization and function of various features within the community landscape.

The volume is divided into four sections: Site Structure and Community Organization, Technological Transformation and Economic Change, Archeological Landscapes, and Earthen Mound Construction and Composition, followed by a summary discussion.

The 13 case studies selected span a wide geographic range throughout the United States, from the Grand Canyon to Michigan, North Carolina and the Southeast and include such iconic mound sites as Spiro and Toltec as well as samplings of site types of regional importance such as a Mandan village in South Dakota, Middle Woodland mound groups in the Lower Illinois Valley, and shell-bearing sites in southwest Florida.

One notable aspect of these studies is the use of multiple data sets for analysis. Most of the studies employed multiple geophysical tests (the single most common technique being magnetic gradiometry.) For example, at Spiro, a Mississippian mound group in eastern Oklahoma, Scott Hammerstedt and crew surveyed the entire site complex using magnetic gradiometry over a 30-hectare area, followed by electrical resistance, electromagnetic conductivity, and magnetic susceptibility in sub-areas to inspect specific details of identified anomalies, many of which were interpreted as houses.

Most projects incorporated previous excavation data or collection data as a starting point and a few followed their geophysical testing with ground-truthing. Geophysical data was also combined with aerial photos, LiDAR, and topographic mapping/digital elevation models, using GIS for overall data integration.

Three studies provided particularly successful examples of addressing anthropological questions such as community and social organization. In the first, McKinnon and Haley performed an analysis of community space utilization at two Mississippian Mound sites in Mississippi and Arkansas.

At Battle Mound, surface collection had suggested locations of houses, but geophysical data demonstrated their presence, size, location, orientation and arrangement. Three discrete areas were identified: short-term communal activities, mortuary functions and domestic occupations. At Hollywood, a large number of burned structures led the authors to hypothesize that they represented commemorative events important in mortuary ritual activities.

In the second example, Jennie O. Sturm attempted to reconstruct evidence of a specific pattern of land use in Chaco Canyon, where remnants of rectangular plots, interpreted either as agricultural plots or ritual landscape, were part of the settlement.

Because the evidence occurred at various depths due to siltation, she was able to combine historical aerial photographic data and GPR data from various depths to reconstruct the evidence, revealing a robust definition and proving some time depth and persistence to the features, reinforcing their significance to the community.

In the third example, Adam Weiwei addressed the question of storage pit capacity at a fortified Mandan Village in South Dakota. Because it was a relatively short-term occupation, magnetic gradiometry testing was used to determine that there were 115 houses, with storage pits numbering in the thousands. Pits were most common around the exterior of most houses and were particularly evident in the spaces between adjacent houses.

Through the analysis of the layout and size of the pits, the authors were able to assess the approximate storage capacity, as well as population and arable land that would have been needed to support it. They were

able to compare these estimates to previous ones based on excavation data to illustrate the utility of the geophysical data to extrapolate to the settlement level.

In the discussion at the end, Kenneth Kvamme notes two important advances that are making geophysical testing more ubiquitous: improvements in the speed of field data collection and the ability of computers to handle massive data sets. This is complemented by overall improvements in instrument reliability as well as better access and training for archeologists, resulting in this type of analysis becoming commonplace.

I recommend the book on two fronts. First, it demonstrates convincingly the value of site-wide surveys as part of investigation, particularly on sites that are large and complex or where excavation is not permitted or is limited. Even when excavation is part of the research, geophysical testing in many cases provides a much more direct route to the anthropological questions that are at the heart of archeological work: namely, addressing questions of social organization and land modification.

Second, the case studies are interesting in their own right, providing a nice "sampler" on sites and site types of interest throughout the United States.

The organization of the book is good and the graphics of the geophysical tests are clearly labeled. As a result, it is easy to follow the authors' findings and interpretations; however, it would have been helpful to have a glossary of the geophysical tests and other technical terms (although not essential, that would have helped with orientation, particularly in the beginning.)

Nevertheless, the quality of the both the project designs themselves and the overall organizational framework of the book make it a valuable addition to the archeological literature.

-- Maureen Kavanagh

Chapter notes

In addition to the listed chapters, ASM has chapters at Hood College and the Community College of Baltimore County and a club at Huntingtown High School in Calvert County, run by Jeff Cunningham; visit its website, <http://hhsarchaeology.weebly.com/>

Anne Arundel

For information, contact Jim Gibb at JamesGGibb@verizon.net

Central Chapter

For information contact centralchapterasm@yahoo.com or stephenisrael2701@comcast.net or 410-945-5514. Or www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter or <http://asmcentralchapter.weebly.com> or Twitter [@asmcentral](https://twitter.com/asmcentral)

May 18: Ernie Dimler, collections curator of the Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower, discusses the Tower and the importance of having collections. Business meeting is at 7: p.m. and the talk begins at 7:30 p.m.

Charles County

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday (September-May) in the community room of the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Carol Cowherd at ccasm2010@gmail.com. Website ccarchsoc.blogspot.com and Facebook [@ccasm2010](https://www.facebook.com/ccasm2010)

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion in Derwood. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:30 p.m. Contact Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter

website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768

May 17: Joe Marx, geology professor, will give a talk on the geology of the Potomac River adjoining Montgomery County.

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. The chapter does not meet in July or August. If Frederick County schools close early or are closed all day because of inclement weather, the presentation will be rescheduled.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are usually the second Wednesday of the month. Members and guests assemble at 6:30 for light refreshments. 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>

Sunday, May 20: Annual picnic at the Iron Hill Museum and Jasper Site.

St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month (with a few exceptions) at 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph D. Carter State Office Building in the Russell Conference Room, 23110 Leonard Hall Drive, Leonardtown. For information contact Chris Coogan at Ccoogan@smcm.edu

May 21: - TBD

Upper Patuxent

Meets the second Monday at 7 p.m. at 9944 Route 108 in Ellicott City. Labs are the second and fourth Saturdays. On Facebook, www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358 or www.upperpatuxentarchaeology.com or try uparchaeologygroup@gmail.com

May 14: Adam Fracchia of the University of Maryland will talk on

June 11: NOTE: Meeting starts at 6 with a potluck. Send in what you plan to bring. Speaker: Alexandra Jones on his group, "Archeology in the Community."

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>

May: No chapter meeting scheduled

June 22: Ryan Cuba and Adam Mumma will appear in full regalia as soldier and Cherokee warrior at Fort Cumberland during the French & Indian War. They will exhibit and discuss the weapons and associated gear of the combatants of that time.

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 Rachael Holmes at 875 Boyd Street, Floor 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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