



## Going deep pays off at the Barton Site

By Bob Wall

*Towson University*

The focus of the 2012 field season at the Barton Site included four tasks that were undertaken principally within just three two-meter units:

- To complete one of the units (N439E215) begun during last year's ASM field session.
- To follow up on testing the T-0 terrace where large subsurface anomalies were identified during a 2009 magnetometer survey. A two-meter unit (N102E195) was placed off the northeast corner of the unit excavated in 2011.
- To complete another two-meter deep test unit on the Pleistocene terrace.
- Augering along a north-south grid line to identify additional deeply buried occupations.



*Artifact-rich Feature 208*

In Unit N439E215, excavation of the complex of overlapping features mapped and partially excavated in 2011 was completed revealing underlying features masked by layers of displaced subsoils.

Completion of the feature excavation revealed what appears to be an extension of a large, linear feature (Feature 110) from a nearby excavation block. This feature may be an extension of a Susquehannock palisade trench that was later filled and re-used for other purposes. The result was a series of overlapping hearth and small pit features overlying the buried trench. These fill events include layers of subsoil, organic soils and some ash lenses.

Recoveries from the feature include bone, shell, charcoal, chert flakes, triangular points and shell- and limestone-tempered ceramics. Though some Page ceramics were recovered, this feature complex appears to be Susquehannock in origin given the recovery of several Susquehannock pottery sherds. The Page ceramics were simply displaced from earlier midden and pit features.

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## Upcoming events

**September 8:** ASM board meeting, Central Library, Columbia. All ASM members are welcome to attend.

**September 15:** Experts from around the country will be presenting at the Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, D.C.'s, 19<sup>th</sup> annual symposium, "The World Around Them: How Pre-Columbian Societies Created Their Cultural Landscapes." For details and registration information, the society's website is [www.pcswdc.org](http://www.pcswdc.org)

**October 20:** ASM annual meeting. United Methodist Church, LaPlata. Details in the October newsletter.

**November 3:** CAT workshops. See below.

### Volunteer opportunities

The following volunteer opportunities are open to CAT 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 [heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org). CAT opportunity.

**ASM field session collection:** Volunteers have finished upgrading the ASM field school collection. They are working on the Rosenstock (Frederick County) material. The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. Contact Louise Akerson at [lakerson1@verizon.net](mailto:lakerson1@verizon.net) or Charlie Hall [chall@mdp.state.md.us](mailto:chall@mdp.state.md.us).

**The Lost Towns Project** of Anne Arundel County welcomes volunteers for its prolific Pig Point prehistoric site. Fridays. Call Jessie Grow 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 [echaney@mdp.state.md.us](mailto: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/](http://www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/) to get started. Remember to add the extra A in archaeological.

### CAT corner

Another CAT Weekend has been set for Saturday, November 3 at the Argicultural History Farm Park in Montgomery County. Workshops will be held on both Native American and historic ceramics.

For information on the CAT program, and updates, visit the ASM website.

## Nominations sought for state Endangered site list

Nominations for the annual listing of threatened Maryland historical sites are being solicited by Preservation Maryland.

Archeological sites and historic buildings are included. All sites should be in extreme jeopardy, savable and in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or locally designated.

Now in its seventh year, the program has identified and highlighted 64 sites.

All nominees receive feedback about their applications and are offered counseling by Preservation Maryland, the Maryland Historical Trust, the National Trust for Historic Preservation or historical societies about fundraising, tax credits, and means of rallying community support.

The deadline for nominations is Sept. 21. A nomination form, with a complete list of criteria is available at <http://www.preservation.maryland.org>

## Vote, nominate, offer: *Now's* the time

Even armchair archeologists can participate in ASM activities now under way or coming up. There are three opportunities and all will culminate at the Annual Meeting in LaPlata October 20.

First, there is the election of new officers. Ballots were mailed to all members in early August. To count, they must be returned to the address on the ballot or brought to the Annual Meeting, where the votes will be counted and the winners immediately installed.

Next, the Society is looking for nominations for its top honor, the William B. Marye Award, which is presented annually for significant contributions to Maryland archeology. The winner need not be a member of ASM or even an archeologist. Nominations are not carried over from year to year, so choices not picked in the past must be nominated again to be considered.

Be specific in saying why the person is worthy, to help the judges in their decision. A nomination form, including a list of past winners, is with this newsletter as well as on the ASM website. Deadline for nominations is Sept. 7.

Finally, contributions are wanted for the Second Annual Silent Auction. Your contributions - and bidding - can help make this a new ASM tradition. Last year over \$1,300 was raised. Maybe this year we can do better. A wide variety of auctionables is sought. Items do not have to be archeology-related. They can be a gift certificate for a restaurant, a travel souvenir, a good book. A donation form is on the ASM website. Forms must be emailed or mailed to co-ordinator Valerie Hall by September 17.

## Old Army fort found on Navy firing range

By Tina Reed

*From the Capital Gazette, April 23, 2012*

For as long as Bill Karditzas has been working at the Naval Academy, a giant slab of marble has sat right smack in the midst of his firing range.

The marksmanship training coach couldn't figure out where it belonged and it was too heavy to move, he said.

So there the stone sat — that is, until it became subject of great curiosity earlier this year after a history professor from the Academy began asking some questions about the land within the firing range fence line.

"I told her, 'I think I know where your fort is,'" Karditzas said.

Turns out, it is likely a piece of what used to be an Army fort long since buried beneath the dirt, the rifle range and other Naval facilities on Greenbury Point across the Severn River from the Naval Academy.

Records show it was made of 100,000 bricks and that it likely had a dry moat around it — but the area has since been completely flattened.

"This is one of the most altered pieces of land I've ever worked with. It's mind-boggling," said Mechelle Kerns Galway, Naval Academy adjunct assistant history professor and president of the Anne Arundel County chapter of the Archeological Society of Maryland.

The much better known Fort Severn — which was located on area that now houses the Naval Academy — is beneath a wing of Bancroft Hall, Kerns Galway said.

"But there were 100,000 bricks. They've got to be out there somewhere," she said.

Kerns Galway began her researching the fort because of the approaching 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, she said. So she began pulling old files and old drawings of the fort and began piecing together as much as she could about its history — looking for clues so she could search for any artifacts that might remain.

Fort Madison initially began being built in the early 1800s at the request of Thomas Jefferson, who wanted forts and gun posts up and down the East Coast. Fort Madison and Fort Severn were among 62 of these forts between Maine and Florida. "You should think Fort McHenry when you picture it," Kerns Galway said.

Fort Madison was redesigned and rebuilt in the 1850s but was later used for training of midshipmen.

"Even though Annapolis was not attacked, it shows Annapolis was very important after the American Revolution. It was important enough to have two forts," Kerns Galway said.

Fort Madison was razed in the 1930s to put in the rifle range. By looking at the diagrams, she realized the fort would have to be located about 18 feet above sea level and used it as a clue on where to look. Earlier this

month, she gathered a group of about 10 midshipmen and dug dozens of test pits. As they worked, they began to find several areas with debris like handmade bricks, including what appeared to be an archway brick, she said. There's still much more excavation to do, but those findings mark a big success, she said.

"It's not going to be a site that has a lot of sexy artifacts," Kerns Galway said. The best she might possibly expect are any lost items from soldiers, such as buttons or hand tools.

But she does feel she's on the right track, she said. And lucky for Karditzas, it won't interfere with his shooting range while keeping tabs on the fort beneath it.

## Large village found by Lake Ontario

*Condensed from LiveScience, July 11, 2012*

Today New York City is the Big Apple of the Northeast but new research reveals that 500 years ago, at a time when Europeans were just beginning to visit the New World, a settlement on the north shore of Lake Ontario, in Canada, was the biggest, most complex, cosmopolitan place in the region.

Occupied between roughly A.D. 1500 and 1530, the so-called Mantle site was settled by the Wendat (Huron). Excavations at the site, between 2003 and 2005, have uncovered 98 longhouses, a palisade of three rows (a fence made of heavy wooden stakes and used for defense) and about 200,000 artifacts. Dozens of examples of art have been unearthed showing [haunting human faces](#) and depictions of animals.

Now, a scholarly book detailing the discoveries is being prepared and a documentary about the site called "Curse of the Axe" aired this week on the History Channel in Canada.

"It's the largest, most complex, cosmopolitan village of its time," said Ron Williamson, an archeologist who led dig efforts at the site, in an interview with LiveScience. "All of the archeologists, basically, when they see Mantle, they're just utterly stunned."

Scientists estimate between 1,500 and 1,800 individuals inhabited the site, whose fields encompassed a Manhattan-size area. To clothe themselves they would have needed 7,000 deer hides annually, something that would have required hunting about 26 miles in every direction from the site, Williamson said.

"When you think about a site like Mantle, 2,000 people, massive stockade around a community, a better analogy is that of [a medieval town](#)," Jennifer Birch, a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Georgia, said in the documentary.

Despite its massive size, the site remained hidden for hundreds of years, likely escaping detection because its longhouses were primarily made of wood, which doesn't preserve well.

Not all of the 98 longhouses were in use at the same time, with more recent ones having been built on top of the older longhouses. At one point 55 longhouses were in use.

One discovery at Mantle is its apparently cosmopolitan nature. The [art and pottery](#) at the site show influences from all five nations of the Iroquois to the south in New York State, suggesting extensive contacts and trade.

For instance, among Mantle's discoveries are the earliest European goods ever found in the Great Lakes region of North America, predating the arrival of the first known European explorers by a century. They consist of two European copper beads and a wrought iron object, believed to be part of an ax, which was carefully buried near the center of the settlement.

A maker's mark on the wrought iron object was traced to northern Spain, and the fact that it was made of wrought iron suggests a 16th-Century origin. In fact, in the early 16th Century Basque fisherman and whalers sailed to the waters off Newfoundland and Labrador. It's believed that it would have been acquired by the aboriginal people there and exchanged up the St. Lawrence River until eventually reaching Mantle.

The people of Mantle, it seems, were on trading relations with the [Iroquois of the St. Lawrence](#).

"Historically, we know that the Huron and the Iroquois were not only at odds, they were [mortal enemies](#)," Williamson said in the documentary.

Today, seven years after excavations wrapped up, only a small portion of the site remains as houses were built on top of it after the dig was complete. "We did not have the planning legislation in place to preserve these sites like we do today," Williamson told LiveScience. "If the site were found today there would be far more exploration of options to preserve it."

# 'Time Team' diggers come to Bethesda

By Scott Dance

*Condensed from The Baltimore Sun, August 13, 2012*

Archeologists have discovered what they think are remains of a barn or blacksmith workshop in North Bethesda that could date to the days of Josiah Henson, a former slave whose autobiography inspired the novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Looking for evidence of what slave life in Maryland was like, archeologists with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Montgomery Parks and the PBS program "Time Team America" began exploring the Josiah Henson Special Park on Monday. They found evidence of a buried foundation that may have existed in the late 1700s and early 1800s, when Henson worked on the homestead for landowner Isaac Riley.

The dig could accelerate fact-finding efforts that started in 2006, when Montgomery County bought the site from private owners. Since then, it has been open to the public for tours of what was Riley's home, parts of which date to the early 1800s, and of the grounds where Henson worked.

Archeologists used technology that detects metals and electric conductivity as well as ground-penetrating radar to find evidence of a rectangular foundation. They looked at old maps and an aerial photograph from 1927 to find it. The site is in the backyard of a neighbor of the park site, who gave permission for the dig.

The scientists says the structure could be a blacksmith workshop because that was Riley's trade. Henson worked for the Riley family from 1795 to 1830, and after he fled to Canada via the Underground Railroad, his recollections of life as a slave were published in 1849. Harriet Beecher Stowe is said to have read Henson's work and used it in writing "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which helped drive the abolitionist movement in the 1850s.

PBS producers say they were intrigued not just by the site's significance in the history of slavery, but its location — the dig site is in a backyard on Old Georgetown Road, a main thoroughfare in Bethesda lined with million-dollar homes.

The producers are working on a four-episode second season of the program, which dedicates an hour each to archeological digs across the country. The production is funded with a National Science Foundation grant to Oregon Public Broadcasting and involves intensive three-day digs at each site.

The second season has received \$2.4 million to date, according to the science foundation.

"Archeology is typically underfunded and slow-going," said Ed Jahn, one of the show's producers. "We want to give a jump-start to what was here, some good research that had already started."

Other sites the show is studying include one of the first pueblo dwellings in Colorado, a 10,000-year-old site of mass bison hunting in Oklahoma and a Civil War prisoner-of-war camp in Georgia. Episodes will air in the fall of 2013.

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A two-meter unit was also placed in the deep excavation block at N429E215, adjacent to the one excavated in 2011. The remnant of a Susquehannock silo-shaped pit (Feature 187) was excavated along the eastern margin of the new unit.

Another silo-shaped pit (Feature 208) was recorded within the new unit and by August was completely excavated. The feature contained artifacts very similar to what was recovered in other silo-shaped pits in this part of the site, including large numbers of triangular projectile points and fragments. Artifacts of Susquehannock origin included Schultz shell-tempered ceramics, elk tooth pendants, rolled copper tinklers and glass trade beads. The concentration of silo-shaped pits in this part of the site is believed to be the heart of the Susquehannock settlement.

An interesting find from the pit included an early serrated point, most likely displaced from deep subsoil that was excavated and re-deposited when the pit was filled.

Mason Island culture midden features in the unit continued to produce bifaces, cobble tools and chert debitage. Early stage bifaces predominate in the Susquehannock silo-shaped pits. Considering the close



proximity of chert sources, many of these were likely brought to the site directly from the local outcrops. Many appear to be rejects, broken during the biface manufacturing process.

A two-meter unit (N102E195) was placed on the T-0 terrace (lower floodplain adjacent to the parking area) of the site. This terrace surface is just below an area on the T-1 or Pleistocene terrace where several Jacks Reef Middle Woodland projectile points have been found on the surface over the years and documented in the John Domenic collection.

As in the other units in this area, the overburden consisted of a thick, alluvial A-horizon that contained very few artifacts. Very little was recovered from the upper subsoil below the A horizon. At a depth of about 60 cm below surface, a loose, sandy B/C horizon was encountered as it was in the adjacent unit from 2011. This was the location of the thick (12-15mm) crushed-rock tempered body sherd of possible Middle Woodland affiliation.

Also recovered from this context were several jasper and chert flakes. Jasper tools and debitage are not typically found in the area but do occur. The closest jasper outcrops can be found well downstream along the Potomac River and in the Shenandoah Valley.

What appears to be an extensive burned surface was revealed at a depth of ca. 130-140 cm below surface. The burned surface very likely represents a segment of the large anomaly identified during the magnetometer survey of the site. If the artifact-bearing horizon above this is of Middle Woodland age, then the burned surface may be of Early Woodland age and is perhaps contemporaneous with the buried Early Woodland surface recorded at site 18AG240, just upstream from the Barton Site.

Work on the site will continue with scheduled (to be announced) weekend digs in September and October when deep testing will be completed. Soil augering along the Pleistocene terrace line north of the deep excavation block also continues with some positive finds of debitage recovered from depths of about 1.5 meters below surface. This appears to represent an extension of the early Holocene surface identified in the deep excavation block.

If you would like to join in a weekend dig, contact me at [rdwall@towson.edu](mailto:rdwall@towson.edu)

## Chapter notes

### Anne Arundel

Meets five times a year in February, April, June, September and November at the home of Pat and Stephen Hittle, 102 Evon Court, Severna Park. 7:30 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns at [AACHapASM@hotmail.com](mailto:AACHapASM@hotmail.com) or the chapter website [www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php](http://www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php)

**September 18:** Mechelle Kerns Galway on "For the Defense of Annapolis: Fort Madison on the Severn."

### Central Maryland

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](mailto:ssisrael@verizon.net)

### Charles County

Meetings are held 7 on the second Thursday (September-May) in the community room of the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Carol Cowherd at [cowherdcl@gmail.com](mailto:cowherdcl@gmail.com) or 301-375-9489. Chapter website is [charlescoasm.org](http://charlescoasm.org) and its blog is [ccarchsoc.blogspot.com](http://ccarchsoc.blogspot.com)

**September 13:** James Gibb will talk about his work at Elk Landing from ASM field school.

**October 11:** TBA

**November 8:** Peter Quantock will be presenting his Geophysical study at Port Tobacco.

**December 13:** Michael Lucas will talk about the War of 1812 at Nottingham.

## Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:45 p.m. Contact [heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org) or call 301-840-5848 or Don Housley at [donhou704@earthlink.net](mailto:donhou704@earthlink.net) or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: [asmmidpotomac@gmail.com](mailto:asmmidpotomac@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, September 19** ( Note day change for this meeting.): Bob Hines, teacher and sponsor of the Archaeology Club at Richard Montgomery High School, will speak on the club's field work this summer at the "Madison House" (where President Madison stayed a night after the British burning of Washington, D.C. in August 1814) at Needwood Mansion, 6700 Needwood Road, Derwood.

**October 18:** Lorraine Minor, president of the Genealogy Club of the Montgomery County Historical Society, will speak about doing genealogical research at Needwood Mansion, 6700 Needwood Road, Derwood.

## Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at [digfrederick.com](http://digfrederick.com) or contact Nancy Geasey at 301-378-0212 or Jeremy Lazelle at [jlazelle@msn.com](mailto:jlazelle@msn.com) or call 301-378-0212.

**September 12:** Roy Brown of the Western Maryland Chapter will talk about work at the Barton Site.

## Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are 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](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net) Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

## Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Ida in Ellicott City. Potluck suppers are held at 6:15 in September and March. Otherwise, dinner is available at the Diamondback in Ellicott City at 6 p.m. Contact Dave Cavey at 410 747-0093 or [hoplite1@comcast.net](mailto:hoplite1@comcast.net)

**September 10:** Jennifer Cosham, the state archeological registrar, will give a presentation on the effect of changing technology on the recordation of sites in Maryland.

**October 8:** Banjo's at Bagendon; a summary of the 2012 season of excavations at Bagendon, Cirencester (UK) presented by Laura Cripps.

**November 11:** Jim Gibb will talk about a new program at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Anne Arundel County that now involves archeology.

## 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](mailto:wmdasm@yahoo.com) Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

**September 28:** Larry Powell, local historian, will speak on the Forbes Campaign of 1758 in western Pennsylvania to remove the French forces from Fort Duquesne at the forks of the Ohio River.

**October 26:** Mimi Hernandez of the Appalachian Center for Ethnobotanical Studies will speak on the use of wild plants for culinary and medicinal purposes by people of the region both past and present.

**November:** Field trip, to be arranged.

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**Submissions welcome.** Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 6817 Pineway, University Park, MD. 20782, 301-864-5289 or [myronbeck@verizon.net](mailto:myronbeck@verizon.net)

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