



# ASM Ink

October, 2007 Vol. 33, No. 10

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

[www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org)

## Annual Meeting coming up October 13

The Annual Meeting of ASM takes place the second Saturday of October in Millersville. Hosted and arranged by the Anne Arundel chapter, the program will offer five lectures dealing with both prehistoric and historic subjects.

The featured Frederick M. Stiner Lecture will be delivered by renowned forensic anthropologist Doug Owsley of the Smithsonian. The talk is entitled "Previewing Written in Bone: Forensic Files of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Chesapeake."

John Kille of the Lost Towns project will talk about the project's new museum exhibits and reconstructions. Dana Kollman will report on the Late Woodland Page and Keyser peoples of the Potomac Valley and Joe Dent will discuss questions arising from this year's ASM field school dig at the Claggett Retreat site in Frederick County. Stephen Israel will analyze the message of the Rockdale rockshelter.

The welcoming remarks start at 9, followed by the business meeting. A change to the bylaws will be proposed and voted on. The first speech begins at 11, with the program scheduled to be completed by 3.

The meeting will be held at Baldwin Hall in Millersville. Directions to the site and the complete program are included on the flier accompanying this newsletter.

For those wanting to eat on site, lunches may be ordered when registering. A variety of box lunches, featuring sandwiches or salads, is available. The cost is \$11.50 and orders must be placed by 9:30 to assure delivery.

## By-law amendment to be offered at meeting

The following by-law amendment is to be offered to the membership at the Annual Meeting October 13 in Millersville. The purpose of the amendment is to add to the by-laws a newly established annual lecture:

**"Section 3.** One presentation to be held during the Tyler Bastian Annual Field Session shall be designated 'The Spencer O. Geasey Memorial Lecture' in honor of his extensive contributions to Maryland archeology. The achievements of Mr. Geasey will be printed in the field session manual and acknowledged prior to the lecture.

### **"Wordings for the Spencer O. Geasey Memorial Lecture:**

"The Spencer O. Geasey Memorial Lecture honors a founding member of the Archeological Society of Maryland who devoted a lifetime to locating and recording archeological sites, primarily in central Maryland. Spencer donated his massive, well-documented artifact collection to the State and published numerous articles. He was frequently consulted by professional archeologists and worked as a field archeologist for the Maryland

Continued on Minutes Insert

## Upcoming events

**October 13:** Annual meeting of ASM. Millersville.

**October 31-November 3:** SEAC conference, Knoxville, Tennessee.

**November 8-11:** ESAF conference, Burlington, Vermont.

### Volunteer opportunities

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

**Montgomery County lab,** field work Wednesdays, 9:30 to 2:30. Call 301-840-5848 or contact [james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org) or [heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org). CAT opportunity.

**ASM field session collection:** Volunteers are needed to work on up-grading collections associated with previous field sessions. Work begins October 9 on the Long Draught Mill site collection. This site was a Montgomery County 19th Century mill complex tested by ASM in 1971. The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. For additional information contact Louise Akerson [lakerson1@verizon.net](mailto:lakerson1@verizon.net) or Charlie Hall [hall@mdp.state.md.us](mailto:hall@mdp.state.md.us).

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

**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. This year's public archeology program runs until July 8, with digging on Fridays and Saturdays and lab work Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Contact Ed Chaney at 410-586-8554 or [echaney@mdp.state.md.us](mailto:echaney@mdp.state.md.us)

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

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

**Special fieldwork opportunity:** Richard Ervin of SHA is working on the Broad Creek Cemetery, a 17<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> Century cemetery on Kent Island. On occasion and on very short notice, it is necessary for him to conduct emergency excavations in preparation for new interments. Work is expected in October. Contact him at 410-545-2878 (days), 410-643-7128 (evenings) or by email at [rervin@sha.state.md.us](mailto:rervin@sha.state.md.us)

## M-NCPPC offers field, lab work in October

The Office of Cultural Resource Stewardship for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery County, will be doing a field survey of Little Bennett Regional Park near Hyattstown. This survey will consist of locating possible sites, GPS sites, laying out grids for shovel test pits, performing shovel test pits and lab work.

These sessions are open to all CAT members needing field survey hours. Most hours are during the week, but weekends may be available depending on the number of people who wish to work then.

Both fieldwork and lab sessions are scheduled for October. Contact Heather Bouslog for further information: [heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org) or 301-840-5848.

## Port Tobacco site beckons for volunteers, web-browsers

Volunteers are wanted to help in the Port Tobacco Archeological Project in Charles County. Close interval shovel testing is going on during October, mostly on weekends, but some weekdays. Already several 18<sup>th</sup> century sites have been found as well as a 19<sup>th</sup> century blacksmith shop and evidence of Late Woodland occupation.

Volunteers, especially CAT candidates, are welcome to participate. For more information about the project, and to keep abreast of developments, finds and field schedules, visit the Port Tobacco website and blog at [www.gibbarchaeology.org](http://www.gibbarchaeology.org)

## MHT announces 6 grants for archeology

**By Maureen Kavanagh**

*Chief, Office of Archeology*

The Maryland Historical Trust has announced its noncapital grant awards for the Fiscal Year 2008. Of the 18 grants awarded, six, totaling \$128,425, are for archeological projects.

The largest archeological grant, \$45,000, is to the Archeological Society of Maryland to support the annual field session, Archeology Month and a survey program. The survey program was a new component of the grant proposal last year and is to continue this year. Its focus will be on investigating unsurveyed areas of the state, adding newly identified archeological sites to the MHT inventory and conducting limited site testing and evaluation.

The other archeological grants represent a broad array of activities, with the emphasis on survey. The Archeological Conservancy received a grant of \$10,000 to identify, assess and prioritize the preservation needs of all National Register sites located on private property. The Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation was awarded \$13,425 to begin a survey of Middle Woodland sites in Anne Arundel County.

Two surveys on the Eastern Shore also were funded. Washington College received \$30,000 to continue developing a predictive model for locations of both prehistoric and historic sites on the upper Eastern Shore, using GIS to map out areas of high site potential. Bay Hundred Foundation received a \$10,000 grant to survey portions of Tilghman Island.

Finally, the University of Maryland will continue its public archeology program in the Hampden Community in Baltimore City, with a grant of \$20,000.

This year's archeological grants will support a wide variety of research, survey and inventory, education, outreach and preservation needs, as well as provide many opportunities for fieldwork, labwork and CAT activities. Watch for calls for volunteers, and expect reports and presentations on these projects in the coming years.

## St. Mary's talks to look at early Maryland

Scholars and representatives of the three cultures that met in colonial Maryland in the 17<sup>th</sup> century will meet in a symposium at St. Mary's College Friday and Saturday November 2 and 3.

The "Rediscovering Maryland in the Atlantic World" symposium, free and open to the public, will look at how the European, Algonquin and African peoples merged and transformed in Maryland's unique environment and the legacy this has left us today.

The speakers will represent the worlds of archeology, art, culture and history. They include Edward E. Chaney, Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory; David Hackett Fischer, Brandeis University; Henry M. Miller, Historic St. Mary's City; Sulayman Nyang, Howard University; David Shields, University of South Carolina; Frederick H. Smith, The College of William and Mary; Gabrielle Tayac, National Museum of the American Indian, and Lorena Walsh, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

For more information, contact Julia A. King at 240.895.4398 or at [jking@smcm.edu](mailto:jking@smcm.edu).

# Unusual trenches found at Va. site

By Brigid Schulte

*Condensed from the Washington Post, August 22, 2007*

When archeologists began digging in a cornfield one steamy summer day on the banks of the York River, they were pretty sure they would find remnants of Werowocomoco, the capital city chosen by Powhatan, the Algonquian paramount chief who once had the power to decide whether the settlers at Jamestown should live or starve.

But once the archeologists began scraping test pits every 50 feet, what they began to unearth was unlike anything they had seen in the region. About 1,000 feet from the river, where they expected to find nothing at all, they found a line of darkly stained dirt where newer topsoil had filled in what at one time had been a long, straight ditch.

The ditch was so straight, so perfectly constructed, they figured it must have been the work of colonists who moved into the area with their more sophisticated metal tools and axes once the Indians had moved out. But the team found only native artifacts. Then radiocarbon testing showed that the ditch was built in the 13th Century, 400 years before Powhatan and his daughter Pocahontas's fateful encounter with John Smith.

The ditches, archeologist Martin Gallivan theorizes, are monuments, separating the sacred part of the city, where Powhatan and his priests lived, from the profane, where everyone else went about the business of daily life. These long-hidden ditches -- Smith never mentioned them in his writings -- are as important to understanding the Algonquian culture as the elaborate structures of the Inca or the white stone tributes to Jefferson and Lincoln on the Mall.

"Historians tend to portray Virginia Indians as a static, unchanging culture," said David Brown, another archeologist with the Werowocomoco Research Group. "This really widens our perspective of how complex this society was and had been for a very long time."

On a recent hot summer day, Gallivan, a College of William and Mary assistant professor, surveyed the land much as Powhatan might have as teams of archeology students -- three students and a volunteer from the nearby Pamunkey tribe and likely descendants of the original inhabitants -- worked the soil.

Since he and other archeologists began digging for six weeks each summer six years ago, they have found that Werowocomoco was huge by the standards of Tidewater Indian villages of the same era -- about 40 acres.

But the ditches are what capture their imagination. This year, they've uncovered roughly 700 feet of ditches. Some are parallel. Some begin to curve mysteriously away from the river. Could they be the mysterious "Double D" pattern that was drawn around Werowocomoco on a 17th-Century Spanish map?

In other Indian villages, ditches have been found around the outsides, remnants of defensive palisade walls, rather than right through the middle.

Near the river, the archeologists found cooking pots and vessels of every size and shape. But on the other side of the ditches, they found serving vessels and smaller bowls of the type used only by chiefs for feasts, where each guest was given a separate bowl. They found ceramics that had originated throughout the Southeast, perhaps brought to chiefs as tribute or as gifts by visiting delegations.

They found postholes of the largest Indian house of this era found in the state, more than 70 feet long and 22 feet wide. The house sits about 600 paces from the river, exactly where Smith described Powhatan's house.

All the evidence pointed to the ditches as monuments. "The landscape was intentionally structured to reflect the power of the place," Gallivan said, "and the importance of the people residing at that place."

Although archeologists and historians have known for decades the likely location of Powhatan's capital, it remained officially "lost."

"Werowocomoco was not a priority," Brown said. "Nor did it become one until 2001 with the right landowner, some pretty lucky archeology and, quite honestly, the right political moment. We could have done an excavation like this 20 years ago, but it wouldn't have been as important as it is now."

The right political moment is the commemoration of Jamestown's 400th anniversary. And the right landowners are Bob and Lynn Ripley, who fell in love with the riverfront property and bought it in 1996. Lynn

Ripley got into the habit of walking the land with her dogs every day. Almost immediately, she began picking up things that edged their way out of the dirt -- broken glass, old medicine bottles, arrowheads, pottery.

In 2001, Brown and his partner, Thane Harpole, were visiting potential archeological sites and paid a call to the Ripleys. When Brown and Harpole saw Ripley's collection, they knew they were onto something big.

Now, every summer, Ripley goes out to dig with the archeologists. She no longer picks up artifacts, only sticks little flags in the ground so the archeologists can analyze the finds in context. When the Ripleys decided to build an addition onto the house, they refused to put in a basement, so as not to disturb the subsoil. They are in the process of ensuring that, after their deaths, their property will be run by a private foundation, with Virginia Indians on the board, to continue researching and educating the public.

## Alexandria point may be 11,000 BP

By Amy Orndorff

*Condensed from the Washington Post, August 19, 2007*

With its plethora of plaques, museums and homes of past presidents, Alexandria is a city that is proud of its history. But nothing in any Alexandria museum can compare with a chipped rock the size of a matchbox that archeologists recently identified as the oldest artifact ever found in the city.

Estimated to be 13,000 years old, the spearhead is the first piece of evidence that people inhabited Alexandria when it was just grasslands. Previously, the oldest artifact unearthed in Alexandria was a 9,000-year-old spearhead found at Jones Point.

"That is really what makes it very significant," said Alexandria preservation archeologist Francine Bromberg. "We thought [people] were here, but we never had the tool type to tell us that was the case."

The chipped rock, known as a Clovis point, was identified by the chips on both sides, a concave base and a fluted channel that would have been attached to a stick to create a spear. Native Americans would have used the Clovis point to hunt the abundant elk, bear, deer, moose and even mastodons that roamed the area.

The tip of the point is missing. Fairfax County archeologist Michael Johnson said the point probably broke while it was being sharpened and was then discarded. Most Clovis points are made from jasper or chert, two types of quartz, but this one was made from a third type, quartzite.

The point was unearthed in the westernmost section of Freedmen's Cemetery at South Washington and Church streets in Alexandria. The site has yielded a wide variety of evidence of prehistoric activity.

"Basically, we have a site that was visited and occupied throughout the course of Native American prehistory, 13,000 to 400 years ago," Bromberg said.

The cemetery was used in the 1860s to bury an estimated 1,800 formerly enslaved African Americans who streamed into Alexandria during and after the Civil War. Over the years, the cemetery was abandoned and a gas station and office building were built on top of it.

The first archeological research on the site was done in the mid-1990s when there was concern that the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project could adversely affect the cemetery. More work was done between 1998 and 2000, when 78 graves were found along with prehistoric material.

The city bought the land this year and ripped down the gas station and office building. A six-member archeological crew has worked steadily on the site since May, often helped by volunteers and interns. Assistant city archeologist Steven Shephard and Bromberg oversee the excavation. Through the heat, Bromberg considers what life was like for people who lived 13,000 years ago in what would become Alexandria.

"At this time, you have to imagine the environment was very different from what it is today," Bromberg said. "It's a totally much colder environment than you would find today."

Archeologists hope to continue excavating the site through October so that a memorial park can be positioned without disturbing any more graves that might be found there.

The Clovis point will be displayed at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, on the third floor of the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Old Town Alexandria.

Bromberg advises people who think they have found an artifact to report it to the Alexandria Archaeology Museum but not to disturb it. She said that where an artifact is found can be as important as the item itself.

"Archeologists are not just interested in the artifacts themselves but the story behind them. The story comes to us through the context where that artifact is found," Bromberg said. "When you pull an artifact out of the ground, it is like tearing pages out of a book. You lose part of the story."

## Chapter notes

### Anne Arundel

The Chapter meets five times a year in February, April, June, September, and November at the All Hallows Parish Brick Church at the Parish Hall near London Town, at 7 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito at [AAChapASM@hotmail.com](mailto:AAChapASM@hotmail.com) or visit the chapter website [www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php](http://www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php)

**October:** There will be a lab day to process artifacts from the McCeney Privy Site (18PR910). Dates and times TBA. Contact Mechelle.

**November 13:** Greg Lockard of URS will discuss his work in Peru, "The Political Power of Moche Rulers on the North Coast of Peru."

### Central

Central Chapter has no formal meetings planned. But if someone has a site he wants investigated, contact the Maryland Historical Trust or Central Chapter President Stephen Israel at 410-945-5514 or [ssisrael@abs.net](mailto:ssisrael@abs.net)

### Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion. Dinner at a local restaurant is at 6. Monthly lab nights are the first Thursday of the month, from 7 to 9 at Needwood Mansion. Contact [james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org) or [heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org), or call 301-840-5848. Chapter website: [www.mid-potomacarchaeology.org](http://www.mid-potomacarchaeology.org)

### Monocacy

The chapter meets in the Community Room of the C. Burr Artz Library, 110 East Patrick Street, Frederick on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Contact Jeremy Lazelle at 301-845-9855 or [jlazelle@msn.com](mailto:jlazelle@msn.com) or Nancy Geasey at 301-293-2708.

**Oct. 10:** Paula Bienenfeld, Frederick City archeologist, will report on the archeology program in the city since its inception in 2005.

**Oct. 20-21:** Jack Davis will have a primitive technology exhibit and demonstrate flint knapping at the 14th Annual Myersville Trolley Festival.

### Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month. Contact Dan Coates at [dancoates@comcast.net](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net) or 410-273-9619(h) and 410-808-2398(c)

**Oct. 11:** Monthly chapter meeting at Perryville Town Hall. Speaker: Jim Gibb, "Port Tobacco Project and Excavations at Octoraro Farm."

**Oct. 13:** Archeology display at the 11th annual Delta Welsh Heritage Festival, Delta, Pa.

**Oct. 14:** Archeology display at Harford County Parks and Recreation's SwanFest, Havre de Grace.

**Oct. 18:** Archeology and primitive skills display at the Elementary Schools' annual Maritime Heritage Class, Havre de Grace.

**Nov. 10:** Native American cooking demonstration at Maritime Museum Founders Day, Havre de Grace.

**Nov. 15:** Monthly chapter meeting at the Maritime Museum, Havre de Grace. Speaker: Keith Colston, "Efforts and Problems in State Recognition of Native Cultures."

**Dec. 10:** Annual chapter business meeting and dinner at Harford Glen, Abingdon. Speaker: Dana Kollmann, "Forensic Anthropology Experiences."

**Jan. 10:** Monthly chapter meeting at the Harford Historical Society, Bel Air. Speaker: Richard Sherrill, "Accessing the Harford County Archives."

## Southern

Contact Kate Dinnel for information at [katesilas@chesapeake.net](mailto:katesilas@chesapeake.net) or 410-586-8538.

## Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Ida, near the court house in Ellicott City. Some months, potluck suppers are held at 6:15 in September and March. Otherwise, dinner is available at an Ellicott City restaurant. For information, contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or [leeprestonjr@comcast.net](mailto:leeprestonjr@comcast.net)

**Nov. 12:** **Lee Preston**, "Prufrockian Archeology Lab, Please Do Ask What Is It When You Make Your Visit: A Hands-On Analysis of Artifacts, Documents and Images."

**Jan. 14:** **Dr. L.J. Cripps**, University of Durham/University of Leicester, "Cornish Iron Age (800 BC-43 AD): A Cultural Backwater?"

**March 10:** **Rebecca Morehouse**, collections manager, MAC Lab, "Life Beyond the Field: Artifact Curation at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab."

**May 12:** Howard Wellman, lead conservator, MAC Lab, "Archeological Conservation and Artifact Handling in the Field."

## Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the LaVale Library, unless noted. Contact Ed Hanna, 301-777-1380. Chapter email: [wmdasm@yahoo.com](mailto:wmdasm@yahoo.com) Website: [www.geocities.com/wmdasm](http://www.geocities.com/wmdasm)

**Oct. 26:** TBA

**Nov. 3:** Field Trip and Tour of Smithsonian Exhibit "Key Ingredients" at Frostburg University.

## Upcoming events in nearby Pennsylvania

Chapter 27 of the Society for Pennsylvania Archeology will host the following meetings at the Renfrew Museum and Park Visitor's Center, in Waynesboro, Pa. The programs begin at 7 p.m.

**October 9:** Daniel Barr, assistant professor of history at Robert Morris University, where he specializes in Native American history and the early Pennsylvania frontier, will speak on native peoples and the Seven Years War in Pennsylvania.



**November 13:** Jim Herbstritt, archeologist with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Bureau of Historic Preservation, will talk on "Ceramic Types of the Lower Susquehanna Valley".

**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](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net).

**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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**TIME SENSITIVE: DELIVER BY OCTOBER 1**

