



ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

From the Trust: Archeology goals for 2007

By Maureen Kavanagh

Chief Maryland Archeologist

The Maryland Historical Trust's New Year really begins in October rather than January. We start our planning in the fall for the next year's field session, workshop, Archeology Month and the busy spring and summer months. Here is a note on some new field opportunities, as well as a couple of "big picture" items that will be guiding our efforts in 2007.

As in past years, this year ASM has received a grant from the Trust to support field and public outreach activities. In addition to supporting the field session and Archeology Month, this year the grant will fund a site testing program. The testing will be done on a number of sites throughout the state with the assistance of ASM volunteers.

One of the goals for this program is to develop a pipeline of future field session sites, especially privately owned sites, where the archeological work can directly contribute to preservation. A good case in point is Rosenstock, where the documentation of the site by the ASM field sessions helped make the case for its preservation and the site now has a protective easement. Under this program, even if landowners elect to develop their property in the future, a field session's data recovery is not a wasted effort since it provides critical documentation that would otherwise be lost.

Carrying on with the theme of site preservation, we plan to focus on two long-term strategies that address the loss of archeological sites:

- (1) Developing a strategy for dealing with eroding shoreline sites.
- (2) Assisting local governments that are developing ordinances for archeological site protection.

As shoreline erosion and site inundation from rising sea levels continue to degrade and destroy some of Maryland's most important sites, it has become clear that we need to figure out how to focus efforts on our most critical significant threatened sites.

Facing such an overwhelming problem, one of our biggest challenges is coming up with a system to monitor,

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It's time to renew your ASM membership

January is not only the start of a new year, it is the start of a new ASM year and if you want to keep being part of ASM, you have to renew your membership. No high-pressure sales pitches, no annoying pledge drives, just this quiet reminder. Dues are the same as last year, starting at \$25 for an active individual membership. See the insert in this newsletter.

Upcoming events

January 10-14: Society for Historical Archeology meeting, Williamsburg, Va. Several Maryland archeologists are giving presentations. For information, 301-990-2454 or hq@sha.org

January 27: Montgomery County Preservation Conference. Strathmore Arts Center, North Bethesda. 9 - 3:15. Charlie Hall is among the speakers. Karen Yaffe Lottes, 301-340-2825, kylottes@montgomeryhistory.org

March 10: Annual archeology workshop. Crownsville.

March 15-18: MAAC meeting, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

April: Maryland Archeology Month. Many activities planned throughout the state.

April 21: Spring symposium. Crownsville.

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 or 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. Currently, the collection from the Rosenstock Site, a key Late Woodland Montgomery Complex area, is being upgraded. The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. For additional information contact Louise Akerson rakerson@comcast.net or Charlie Hall 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

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

An ethics workshop will be held by the Mid-Potomac Chapter on Thursday, January 18 (snow date is one week later). For information contact Vivien Eicke of Mid-Potomac at 301-681-6497 or veicke@erols.com

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

Special fieldwork opportunity: Richard Ervin of SHA is working on the Broad Creek Cemetery, a 17th through 19th 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. Contact him at 410-545-2878 (days), 410-643-7128 (evenings) or by email at rervin@sha.state.md.us

Isotope tests ordered on field session finds; want to help out?

In order to get a better idea of the material found at several recent ASM field schools, the ASM board has authorized Dana Kollmann to order stable isotope tests on some faunal material.

Several samples will be selected for analysis from three Page sites and two Keyser sites. The Page sites are Nolands Ferry in Frederick County and the Cresaptown and Barton sites in Allegany County. The Keyser sites are Hughes, from Montgomery County, and the Keyser component of the Barton site in Allegany County.

Dana is looking for ASM members to take part in the project. She would like volunteers to help identify features from the sites that contain faunal bone with good temporal context and also to assist in collecting and packaging the bone samples to send to the lab.

People who took part in the field schools may have a special interest in following up on their earlier work, but all volunteers are welcome. Contact her at dkollmann@towson.edu

Autopsy trace is found at 1604-5 site

By David Sharp

Condensed from the Associated Press, Nov. 1, 2006

The earliest confirmed autopsy in North America was conducted more than 400 years ago by French colonists desperate to determine what was killing them as they endured a rugged winter on Maine's St. Croix Island, scientists concluded.

A team of forensic anthropologists from the United States and Canada confirmed that the skull of a man buried on the island over the winter of 1604-05 showed evidence of having undergone an autopsy, they said.

Nearly half of the 79 settlers led by explorers Pierre Dugua and Samuel Champlain died over that winter from malnutrition and the harsh weather.

The skull was discovered during excavations by the National Park Service in June 2003. The top had been removed to expose the brain; the skull cap was replaced before the body was buried, the scientists said.

"This is the same procedure that forensic pathologists use to conduct autopsies today," said Thomas Crist from Utica College in New York, who led the team of forensic anthropologists analyzing the remains.

The conclusion, announced by the National Park Service, fits with the writings of Champlain, who described a dire situation in his memoirs published in 1613. He wrote that his barber-surgeon was ordered to "open several of the men to determine the cause of their illness."

Scientists using modern techniques have concluded that the French settlers died from scurvy, which is caused by a lack of vitamin C.

The St. Croix settlement turned out to be short-lived but it gave the French credit for beating the English to establish a permanent presence in the New World.

The graves were originally excavated in 1969 by a team from Temple University. Decades later, the remains were re-interred by the National Park Service after consultation with the French and Canadian governments. It was during reburial that the team members were at the site discussing Champlain's journal reference to autopsy, said Marcella Sorg, Maine state forensic anthropologist, who was part of the team.

Sorg said she looked down and noticed the skull with the autopsy cuts that apparently had been overlooked during previous excavations.

"It was beautifully done, a very straight cut, and very accurate," she said.

Pat Ward, longtime ASM member and activist, dies

For many years Ned Ward and his wife Pat were among the most active members of ASM. Ned served on the board and was prominent in directing field school activities. While he was showing volunteers what to do, and doing more than his share himself, Pat was busy in the lab, washing and labeling artifacts and just making the place nicer to be at. Ned was the dynamo, Pat spread good cheer.

The partnership came to an end November 27 when Pat died. In addition to Ned, she is survived by four sons, two daughters, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Preserving the crime scene

By John Kelly

Condensed from the Washington Post, November 6, 2006

You probably think that archeology is all about artifacts, all about obsidian spear points, crystal skulls and gold idols.

If you think that, you are wrong. Archeology is all about dirt.

I know this because I spent a day last week as an archeologist, a day that I only now have gotten out from under my fingernails and probably will never wash out entirely from the knees of my jeans.

To an archeologist, dirt is the cosmic timekeeper. It's the hands on the clock, the squares on a calendar. It's the medium *that* tells you *this* piece of pottery is older than that one.

Dirt is so important that archeologists don't do anything so vulgar as actually dig it. They sort of gently coax it aside: "Please, Mr. Dirt Clod, would you kindly move?"

I know this because Heather Bouslog, assistant archeologist for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, invited me to help excavate a Civil War-era site not far from the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal.

We live in an archeologically rich area. Prehistoric peoples roamed the landscape. Settlers came, wars were fought, towns grew and fell and grew again. And at every turn, humans left traces of their lives in the all-embracing dirt.

On Wednesday, Heather, her boss, Jim Sorensen, 10 other archeology buffs and I hiked to a location in the woods near Montgomery County's Muddy Branch. We pulled back the black plastic sheeting that protected the areas under excavation. String attached to spikes enclosed 5-by-5-foot squares.

The site has been fairly productive. Close to 30 Union regiments camped there over the course of the war. They looked for Confederate soldiers. One hundred forty years later, we were looking for what was left of them.

Artifacts found in the same layer of dirt come from the same time, so it's important to know exactly what kind of dirt you're working with.

"One of the things you develop is an aesthetic sense of dirt," said Mike Robinson, 60, a volunteer who worked beside me.

If you can roll dirt into a sticky ball, it has clay in it. If it makes a raspy sound as you squeeze it between the fingers, it has sand. If it's soft like talcum powder, it has silt. Then we compared our dirt to a set of color swatches. It was "strong brown" on the Munsell scale.

I was told to remove the dirt in a neat and orderly process, all in one level, as if by microtome. My trowel was comically small, like something a child would use. The preferred method is to hold the blade parallel to the ground, slicing off thin layers.

It's so *slow*, I whined to Mike. Our holes were barely six inches deep, and that's after a year of digging. Don't you ever get the urge to just grab a shovel or a jackhammer and go to town?

"You have to resist those urges," said Mike, dryly.

At times I looked wistfully over at Pete Poggi and Jerry Kimmich, who gently swept metal detectors over the leaf-strewn ground. When they picked up a signal in their headphones, they'd drop to a knee and start digging, noting the location and depth of any artifact they unearthed.

That this sort of instant gratification was even allowed was because of a concern Jim and Heather had: relic hunters. It's against the law to remove artifacts from public land, but the archeologists had detected signs of scavengers.

"People'll cut your throat for a relic," Jerry, 54, told me.

Said Jim, 62: "Archeology is all about the science of measuring things in. If you take something out of the site, it's like taking something out of a crime scene."

As I moved a thin layer of dirt, I saw a ruddy streak. There was a metal-on-metal sound as my trowel blade clinked against it. I scraped some more until I revealed what looked like a tool, about four inches long and a half-inch wide. A knife handle, maybe.

I lifted the knife handle from the earth and wondered who had last touched it.

Tests inconclusive on naming Jamestown skeleton

From news reports, November 21, 2006

JAMESTOWN - The name of a man buried with a captain's ceremonial staff about 400 years ago is still a mystery, after tests on a tooth suggested that it may be Bartholomew Gosnold but left open the possibility that it also could be one of two other settlers.

The test compared the ratio of strontium and oxygen isotopes in tooth enamel with that of the drinking water in various parts of England. Such tests can reveal where a person lived during early childhood when the teeth were forming.

Gosnold, Captain Gabriel Archer and Sir Ferdinando Wenman were all born in regions of England that would produce isotopic signatures similar to that of the tooth that was tested.

William Kelso, director of archeology for Jamestown Rediscovery, still believes the bones are likely those of Gosnold, who died shortly after the colony was founded in 1607. Historic records indicate that he was given a ceremonial burial.

The skeleton was buried in a coffin with a captain's leading staff laid alongside. The grave was outside the walls of the original fort.

Archer, first secretary of the colony, died during the "Starving Time" of 1609-10 when the fort was under siege, so it is doubtful, Kelso said, that such a ceremonial burial would have taken place then. It's also unlikely that colonists would have left the safety of the fort to do so.

Wenman, master of ordnance, was a knight, not a captain, Kelso said, and would more likely be buried with his sword, not a captain's staff.

Meanwhile, archeologists with the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities said they remain convinced a skeleton unearthed last year in a Suffolk, England, church is not Gosnold's sister, Elizabeth Tilney. The tooth tests indicated that the male and female skeletons did not drink water with the same composition, and so were probably not brother and sister.

But the Church of England, which authorized the English church dig, said that it remains convinced by scientific evidence that the English skeleton is probably Tilney. That would make it unlikely that the Jamestown skeleton is Gosnold, the church said in a news release.

Anne Arundel chapter visits Jamestown

By Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito

Anne Arundel Chapter president

On Saturday November 3, 2006, the Anne Arundel Chapter of ASM (13 of us) traveled to Jamestown for a full day of 17th Century history, archeology and material cultural.

Our first stop was the National Colonial Park where we were met by Dr. Andrew Veech, archeologist for Jamestown, National Park Service. He took us down the path that had once been part of the Governors Road leading out of Jamestown to the governor's mansion, explaining the history as we went.

We next visited the archeological remains of the original Jamestown Settlement glassworks. They are well-preserved behind glass in a weatherproof structure. Then we visited the reconstructed glassworks where you can watch artisans make mouth-blown glass tableware. The period-garbed interpreters explained the process, materials and equipment as they worked.

We arrived at the formal section of the NPS Park in time to observe John Rolfe explaining life at Jamestown in 1609. The interpreter is a descendent of the original John Rolfe, the man who introduced the tobacco that became the basis of the colonial economy in the Chesapeake.

After Mr. Rolfe explained the starving time at Jamestown, Dr. Veech took us to the AVPA (Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities) Jamestown Rediscovery section of the site where we met Tonia Deetz Rock, an AVPA archeologist. Ms. Rock has spent many years excavating the Jamestown fort complex and yes, her name is familiar. She is the daughter James Deetz the author of "In Small Things Forgotten."

Ms. Rock told us of the history of the search for the fort and the secrets of early Jamestown. The AVPA archeologists have excavated wells, cellars and graves associated with the settlement. **Continued on Page 6**

The next stop was the new museum, The Jamestown Archaearium, which opened in May and is a wonderful showplace for the artifacts and the stories they have to tell about Jamestown. Artifacts on display include ceramics, glasswares, glass trade beads, item of personal adornment, religious metals, tobacco pipes, Native American items and many other examples of 17th Century materials culture.

The AVPA also has conducted forensic studies on some of the human remains. A high-tech display explains what the old bones can tell us about the past, with exhibits explaining the scientific process of interpreting cranial and facial remains to put a face on the inhabitants of Jamestown.

After a late lunch our group visited the Jamestown Settlement and Yorktown Victory Center (we only visited the Jamestown section). Much like Colonial Williamsburg, this attraction has period-dress interpreters living in an Indian village and in a fort, palisaded complex with reconstructions of homes, a church and workshops.

There are also ships to visit, the *Susan Constant*, *Godspeed* and *Discovery*. These are replicas that work.

There is a new museum at the Jamestown Settlement too, containing artifacts from many different early colonial sites and covering the 400-year period since the colony was founded.

For more information: Historic Jamestown <http://www.historicjamestowne.org/visit/archaearium.php>
Jamestown Settlement <http://www.historyisfun.org/jamestown/jamestown.cfm>

The Trust's archeology goals for 2007

Continued from Page One

protect and recover data from the highly significant sites along our coastlines. The long-term plan that we will develop to address this problem will include seeking major funding opportunities and partnerships to assist in this effort.

As mentioned previously, there is a grassroots movement in many communities to protect archeological resources. The Office of Archeology is focusing on providing support to counties and cities to develop good models for addressing protection of archeological resources. This activity is picking up all over the state and we expect that 2007 will see several new local initiatives.

Although the archeology staff has moved to separate units, we continue to meet once a month on a regular basis and as needed for special activities. While it is too early to evaluate the effectiveness of the changes, it does not appear to have hampered communication among the staff and there haven't been any major issues that have come to light.

2007 will bring changes to state government as Martin O'Malley is sworn in as governor. The budget for the next fiscal year (to begin in July) already was prepared by the Ehrlich administration, and details will be announced right before the legislative session begins. Announcements regarding Cabinet secretaries and other executive staff appointments are usually made within the first month or two of a new administration. We hope for strong support for preservation programs under the new leadership.

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 or visit the chapter website www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php

February 13: A pot luck show-and-tell evening. Bring some artifacts for discussion.

Dig Days at London Town for 2007: May 12, July 14, September 15.

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

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 or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org, or call 301-840-5848. Chapter website: www.mid-potomacarchaeology.org

January 18: Jim Gibb will speak on archeological ethics. This program is open to all CAT candidates.

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 301-293-2708 or jlazelle@msn.com. Chapter website: www.digfrederick.bravehost.com.

January 10: Show and tell.

Northern Chesapeake

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

Southern

Contact Kate Dinnel for information at 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 6:30. Otherwise, dinner is available at the Tiber River Tavern in Ellicott City. For information, contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or roseannlee@earthlink.com

January 8: "Archeology Lab: Mt. Pleasant."

February 12: Matt Croson on "Archeology and CSI: Time is the Only Difference."

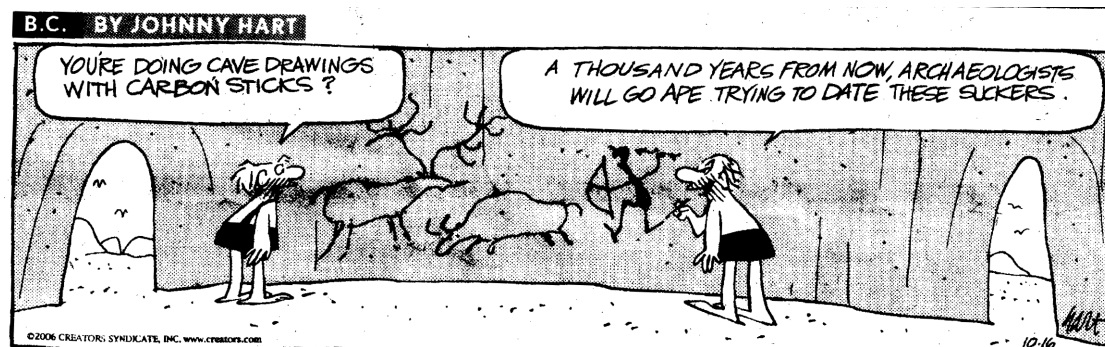
March 12: Michael Olmert, University of Maryland, "Outbuildings: Architecture and Culture in the 18th Century Anglo-Tidewater Backyard." (Pot Luck Supper)

April 9: Bob O'Brien, "A Travelogue of Hawaii."

May 14: Program to be announced. (Pot Luck Supper)

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 Website: www.geocities.com/wmdasm



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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