



Burial sites found for NAGPRA remains

By Claude Bowen

After four years of discussion, a working group of state officials, archeologists and Indians has completed its work and the remains of Native Americans covered by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) inventory are being re-interred.

The working group was formed by the Maryland Department of Planning, Maryland Historical Trust and the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs in 2008 to attempt to reach a consensus on an appropriate place of repose for the remains located at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum. I represented ASM.

During the meetings, both the Indian representatives and those of the archeological community were permitted to give their personal and, where applicable, professional positions on the subject of using human remains for research. Scientific experts such as Dr. Dana Kollmann of Towson University and Dr. Theodore Schurr of the University of Pennsylvania were called in to give overviews of what modern analysis and the study of human remains can tell us about the past.

The working group determined that an appropriate place of repose for these remains is back in the earth. It was agreed that a place of interment would be located for each of the cardinal directions and that remains would be re-interred in the location closest to the place from which they were initially recovered.

Because no tribe or band in Maryland has yet received federal recognition, the State of Maryland remains the custodian of remains under NAGPRA and will be responsible for recovering them if a federally recognized tribe or group (whether Maryland-based or not) successfully claims some of the remains in the future.

To comply with this requirement, the group decided to identify state parks or other state-controlled land where re-interment could take place, daily security could be maintained and protection of the sites could be ensured.

After a number of site visits that included Department of Natural Resources staff (all of whom made outstanding efforts to complete this project), MHT staff, MCIA staff and members of the working group, state park locations were identified in southern, western, central/northern Maryland and on the Eastern Shore. Remains that could not be culturally identified by reinterred at Jefferson Patterson.

It was agreed that, since the remains came from the earth in a state of preservation, that they would be re-interred with a goal of continued preservation. Although none of the Indian representatives believe that Indians now or in the future will permit the remains to be recalled for study purposes, the preservation of the remains makes that eventuality possible.

It was also agreed that the Department of Planning would be asked to form a standing committee to rule on research proposals concerning human remains found on state lands or that come into state custody.

Continued on Page 5

Upcoming events

February 2: CAT Workshop. Towson University. See below.

March 2: ASM board meeting. All are welcome.

March 23: Annual Archeology Workshop. Crownsville.

April 3 – 7: Society for American Archaeology meeting. Honolulu.

April 13: ASM Spring Symposium.

April 20: Discover Archeology Day at Jefferson Patterson Park.

October 17–19: Three-day conference focused on the Ice Age colonization of the Americas. Santa Fe.
<http://www.paleoamericanodyssey.com>

October 31 – November 3: Eastern States Archeological Federation meeting. South Portland, Maine.

Volunteer opportunities

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

The **Smithsonian Environmental Research Center** seeks participants in its Citizen-Scientist Program in archeology and other environmental research programs in Edgewater. Archeological field and lab work are conducted during the week and on occasional Saturdays. Contact Jim Gibb at jamesggibb@verizon.net

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. CAT opportunity.

ASM field session collection: Volunteers have turned their attention to material from Chapel Point and Heaters Island. The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. Contact Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall chall@mdp.state.md.us.

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County 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 or 410-586-8554.

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

CAT corner

A workshop on Native American ceramics will be given by Bob Wall February 2 at Towson University, Liberal Arts Building - Room 3329, Archaeology Lab. 8 - 11 a.m. Rain date, February 9.

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

Former board member Don Wilson dies at 66

Donald Hurst Wilson III, an ASM board member during the 1990s, died December 17, 2012, in Raleigh, N.C., at age 66 of cancer. Born in Baltimore, in his varied career he was a lawyer, minister and businessman.

His interest in archeology was spurred by a site he found on his Baltimore County farm in 1991. Shortly before his death he arranged to have much of his collection and tools given to ASM and the Maryland Historical Trust.

Surprise: Archeologists find traces of beer . . .

By LiveScience

Condensed from the Washington Post, January 7, 2013

Several new archeological finds suggest that alcohol has been a social glue in parties, from work festivals to cultic feasts, since the dawn of civilization.

In the December issue of the journal *Antiquity*, archeologists describe evidence of nearly 11,000-year-old brewing troughs at a feasting site in Turkey. And archeologists in Cyprus have unearthed the 3,500-year-old ruins of what may have been a primitive brewery and feasting hall. The excavation, described in the November issue of the journal *Levant*, revealed several kilns that may have been used to dry malt before fermentation.

The findings suggest that alcohol has been a social lubricant for ages, said Lindy Crewe, an archeologist who co-authored the *Levant* paper. While the cultivation of grain clearly transformed humanity, why it first happened has been hotly contested. "This debate has been going on since the 1950s: Is the first cultivation of grain about making beer, or is it about making bread?" Crewe said.

Some researchers suggest that beer arose 11,500 years ago and drove the cultivation of grains. Because grains require so much work to produce (collecting tiny, mostly inedible parts, separating grain from chaff and grinding into flour), making beer would have been reserved for feasts with important cultural purposes.

Those feasts — and alcohol-induced friendliness — may have enabled hunter-gatherers to bond with people in newly emerging villages, fueling the rise of civilization. At work parties, beer may have motivated people to put a little elbow grease into bigger projects such as building monuments.

"Production and consumption of alcoholic beverages is an important factor in feasts facilitating the cohesion of social groups, and in the case of [the Turkish site], in organizing collective work," wrote Oliver Dietrich, a co-author of the *Antiquity* paper, in an e-mail.

The site in Cyprus includes a courtyard and hall, along with jugs, mortars, grinding tools and, crucially, several kilns that Crewe and her colleagues believe were used to toast barley for a primitive beer. To test their hypothesis, the team replicated the kilns to produce malted barley and used it in a cloudy and slightly weird-tasting beer, Crewe told LiveScience.

. . . and maybe traces of chocolate too

By Traci Watson

Condensed from Science Now, January 23, 2013

They were humble farmers who grew corn and dwelt in subterranean pit houses. But the people who lived 1,200 years ago in a Utah village known as Site 13, near Canyonlands National Park, seem to have had at least one indulgence: chocolate. Researchers report that half a dozen bowls excavated from the area contain traces of chocolate, the earliest known in North America.

The finding implies that by the end of the 8th Century C.E., cacao beans, which grow only in the tropics, were being imported to Utah from orchards thousands of kilometers away.

The discovery could force archeologists to rethink the widely held view that the early people of the northern Southwest had little interaction with their neighbors in Mesoamerica. Other scientists are intrigued by the new claim, but also skeptical.

The findings stem from collaboration between Dorothy Washburn, an archeologist at the University of Pennsylvania's University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in Philadelphia, and her husband William Washburn, a chemist at Bristol-Myers Squibb in Princeton, New Jersey. In an earlier study, they detected evidence of cacao in pottery from 11th-Century burial sites in New Mexico's Chaco Canyon and in vessels from other Southwestern sites. As a follow-up, the scientists tested bowls excavated in the 1930s from Site 13, which dates to roughly 770 C.E.

Other researchers are cautious, precisely because the new study and the authors' previous research have found so much chocolate. If cacao were so common, there would be stories or visual references or historical references to it, writes Ben Nelson, of Arizona State University, Tempe, who studies the ancient cultures of northern Mexico and the American Southwest, in an e-mail.

Indian names of area waterways

By Carol Ebright

From CRAB, newsletter of State Highway Administration, Fall, 2012

With its coastal setting and a multitude of rivers, estuaries and bays, Maryland's waterways have been the focus of human settlement, a source of sustenance and a means of travel for millennia. Many waterways still retain the names the Native American inhabitants, largely Algonquin-speakers, gave them. Here is a sampling of Maryland waterway names and their translated meanings, taken from a variety of sources:

Accokeek	At the edge of the rising ground
Antietam	Swift water
Anacostia	At the trading town
Assateague	Yellow or brown river
Catoctin	Speckled mountain
Chesapeake	Great shellfish bay
Chincoteague	Large stream or inlet
Choptank River	It flows back strongly
Conococheague	A dull sound is heard far off or A long way or Water of many turns
Conowingo	At the waterfall or rapids
Honga	Goose
Linganore	It melts copiously in springtime
Lonconing	Where there is a beautiful summit
Mattawoman	Where one goes pleasantly
Monocacy	Fortified, fenced, a garden or At the garden creek
Nanticoke	Tidewater people; they who ply the tidewater stream
Nanjemoy	They go down to the river or landing place
Nassawango	Ground between the streams
Octoraro	Where the water is shallow and swift
Patapsco	At the rocky point or creek
Patuxent	At the little falls or rapids or Tide covered with froth
Piscataway	Division or branch of a stream
Pocomoke	Pierced or broken ground or Broken by knolls
Pomokee River	Twisting in the land or Where we sweat or Place of secrecy in the woods
Port Tobacco (Potopaco)	A jutting of the water inland or Bulging out
Potomac	Something bought or Where it is brought in or Those to travel to bring again
Rockaway	At the fork or At the sandy ground
Sinepuxent	Stones lie shallow or Stones are lying broken up
Tonoloway	Long tail
Tonytank	Where there is a stream at a little hill
Transquaking	Place of the white cedar swamp
Tuscarora	Hemp gatherers
Wicomico	Pleasant dwelling or village
Youghiogheny	Circuitous or winding stream

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Continued from Page One

It is envisioned that this group will function in a similar manner to institutional review boards found in universities and other research organizations. These entities are responsible for reviewing proposed research procedures involving living subjects and ensuring that the research be conducted in a respectful and ethical manner. It asked that this panel be equally represented by Indians and members of the archeological community.

Archeologists generally believe that future technological breakthroughs will greatly decrease the need for destructive analysis of remains in order to conduct sophisticated analyses that now require it.

Prior to reburial, the Indian and archeological representatives agreed that a final, nondestructive study of those remains complete enough to give significant data might take place within two years. In mid-December of 2012, Dr. Douglas Owsley of the Smithsonian Institution conducted studies on a few individuals deemed to have the greatest research potential.

By the end of December, all but the Piscataway remains had been re-interred and with solemn Indian ceremonies. Each grave received a base and covering layer of oyster shells to promote preservation. Lynne Bulhack of ASM made ceramic plaques for each grave, warning inadvertent diggers that human remains are buried there and that the grave is a re-interment. Each burial location was designated an archeological site, numbered as such and registered as part of the state inventory.

The only remains not yet buried are those identified with the Piscataway peoples of Southern Maryland. It is the wish of these groups that the remains be returned only to the Accokeek Creek site which is now part of the National Parks system and will require separate negotiations and agreements. It should be an interesting exercise in federalism to see how State of Maryland custody can be retained while the remains are located on federal park land.

The project was funded by a grant to the Department of Planning by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The remains are returned to the earth

By Lynne Bulhack

The diverse soils and land features of some of Maryland's magnificent state parks offered "Appropriate Places of Repose" for Native American human remains in the last months of 2012. I was privileged to be in the presence of ceremony and tradition returning human remains to the earth at the four ceremonies from the sandy Eastern Shore to the gritty stream and valley piedmont, into the weathered mountains of Western Maryland.

Native worldview posits that everything in the universe is alive, that ritual helps people live in balance with their environment. Smudging is a way of cleansing a person, place or object of negative energies, spirits and influences.

Nested in a shell, the smoke of smoldering, dried sage was offered to the four directions carrying native language words to Creator. An eagle feather fan waved smoke over, onto, around and under the bottoms of the feet of those wishing to be smudged -- not easy to stand on one foot on uneven ground, arms akimbo.

Smudged and blessed with native language words, remains wrapped in red cloth were placed into the earth amongst beds of oyster shell. Individuals now covered with earth are able to continue their interrupted journey.

On one occasion a beautifully handcrafted pipe filled with sacred tobacco was passed to those wishing to participate in linking the spiritual and physical worlds of earth and sky. On one occasion an eagle passed overhead. And on all occasions representatives of the archeological community, native community and the stewards of our parklands enjoyed food and drink celebrating common purpose.

Quotes from my favorite poet, Mary Oliver, best describe what I perceived to be the thoughts and feelings of individuals whose efforts enabled these ceremonies: "Keep room in your heart for the unimaginable." "Every day I see or hear something that more or less kills me with delight, that leaves me like a needle in a haystack of light." "Sometimes I need only to stand wherever I am to be blessed."

Items needed for April's silent auction

The silent auctions held at the fall meeting the last two years have proved so popular that ASM has decided to offer one at the larger Spring Symposium so more people can get a chance to pick up something they find either irresistible or a grand bargain. Attendees have a chance to bid on a wide range of items, some of which are archeology related, some of which have nothing at all to do with archeology. Theater tickets, pottery, get-aways, books, whatever.

But we can't have the auction unless we get items to auction. Think of something you can donate that will interest someone and will help raise money for the auction fund. Contact Valerie Hall if you are interested in donating. Valerie.Hall@gmail.com or 301 814 8028. A form is on the ASM website or with this newsletter.

Northern Chesapeake Chapter honors Gibb

The Northern Chesapeake Chapter has presented its Cresthull Golden Trowel Award to Jim Gibb for his long involvement in the chapter's educational outreach and field activities.

Among the many efforts mentioned in the citation are teaching the first archeology class at Harford Community College, presenting the first of the very successful series of Cresthull Memorial Lectures at HHC, his mentorship role for two of the ASNC Certified Archeological Technician graduates, the number of his presentations at chapter meetings and his leadership at the Octoraro Farms, Susquehanna Canal and Elk Landing field investigations.

An independent archeologist long active in the ASM, Gibb lives in Annapolis.

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

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

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 or 301-375-9489. Chapter website is charlescoasm.org and its blog is ccarchsoc.blogspot.com

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 or call 301-840-5848 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com Check our website for information concerning ordering the book, "Montgomery County Mills: A Field Guide," published by the chapter and reviewed in the January edition of the ASM newsletter.

February 21: Chapter members Valerie Hall and Jack Marshall will speak on their individual archeology-related travel experiences at Needwood Mansion, 6700 Needwood Road, Derwood.

March 21: Becca Peixotto, an anthropology graduate student at American University, will speak on artifact analysis at the Dismal Swamp.

April 18: Genie Robinson, anthropology professor at Montgomery College-Rockville campus, will speak on the archeology at Falling Green, an 18th-Century house in Olney.

May 16: Charlie Hall, the state's terrestrial archaeologist, will conduct a workshop on soils and site formation processes. Bring your own dinner or contribute \$7 for pizza and salad dinner. The workshop begins at 6 p.m.

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 or call 301-378-0212.

February 13: "Moments in Time: Letters from the Roman Front," produced by Terra Nova Television. If Frederick County Public Schools are closed or close early because of weather, the meeting will be cancelled.

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 Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

February 13: Jim Gibb on the results of the May 2012 field session. Historical Society of Harford County, Bel Air.

March 13: Robert Owen on "The search for the ruins of Ai, Joshua's second conquest of Canaan." Harford Jewish Center, Have de Grace.

April: Friday date TBA. Annual Maryland Archeology Month Presentation. Edgewood Hall, Harford Community College, Bel Air.

May: Sunday date TBA. Annual ASNC Picnic. Upper Bay Museum, North East.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at Mt. Ida in Ellicott City. Potluck suppers are held at 5:45 in September and March. Otherwise, dinner is available at the Diamondback in Ellicott City at 5:30 p.m. Contact Dave Cavey at 410 747-0093 or hoplite1@comcast.net

February 11: Claude Bowen will talk about the state's and Indians' negotiations over a place of repose.

Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the LaVale Library, unless noted. Contact Roy Brown, 301-724-7769. Chapter email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

February 22: Hafting: How to Attach a Rock to a Stick, a primitive technology presentation by Roy Brown

March 22: Life as a Civil War re-enactor, by Deb and Joe Topinka.

April 26: Page and Keyser interment regimes from the middle and upper Potomac River Valley, by Dana Kollmann.

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ASM 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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